



ACCREDITED
AGENCY



El Paso Fire Department

Annual Report
2013



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El Paso Fire Department

Mission and Vision

Mission

The Mission of the Fire Department is to provide emergency response, prevention, preparedness and education to residents, businesses and visitors of our city so they can live safely and prosper in a hazard resilient community.

Vision

The El Paso Fire Department will be a recognized leader in the fire and rescue service at the local, state, regional and national level.

Our culture will reflect a trusting, cooperative, and friendly team atmosphere nurtured by respect for each other and for the public we serve.

We will earn and honor our community's trust through the provision of the most effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible service possible to all groups in all areas in the city.

We will explore all opportunities to improve our people and our services, and spend time and energy developing the best strategy possible for providing the service delivery required in our community.

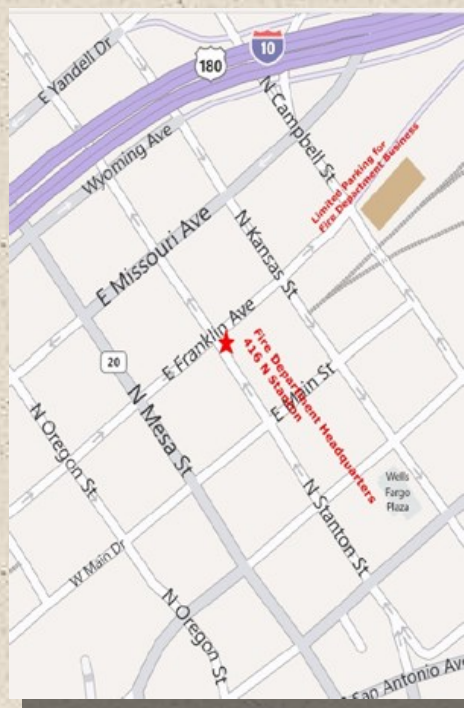
We will demonstrate our excellence at all times, and will be internationally accredited and recognized for applying industry best practices.



El Paso Fire Department

Headquarters

Fire Department Headquarters is located at 416 N. Stanton on the 2nd, 3rd and part of the 5th floor. The Fire Department's Maintenance and Logistics Divisions are located at 8600 Montana. Future plans are to merge all divisions into one location.



Headquarter Divisions

Fire Chief's Office
Assistant Chiefs' Offices
Finance Division
Operations Research
Professional Standards

Human Resources
Payroll
Fire Prevention Division
Facilities Oversight
Fire Medical Research



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Facts and Statistics Summary

Geographical Information

Area	Size	Population
City of El Paso	260 Square Miles	672,538

Department Summary

Fire Stations	36
Pumpers	31
Quints	9
Ladders	5
Rescues	26
Battalions	6
Medics	4
Rescue Captains	2
Squads	1
Hazmat	1
Civilian Employees	194
Uniformed Employees	892

Busiest Units

Pumper 21	3,246
Pumper 25	2,980
Pumper 23	2,906
Rescue 1	2,830
Pumper 19	2,764

Busiest Units by Type

Pumper 21	3,246
Rescue 1	2,830
Quint 18	2,155
Ladder 24	1,881
Battalion 4	385



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Facts and Statistics Summary

Geographical Information

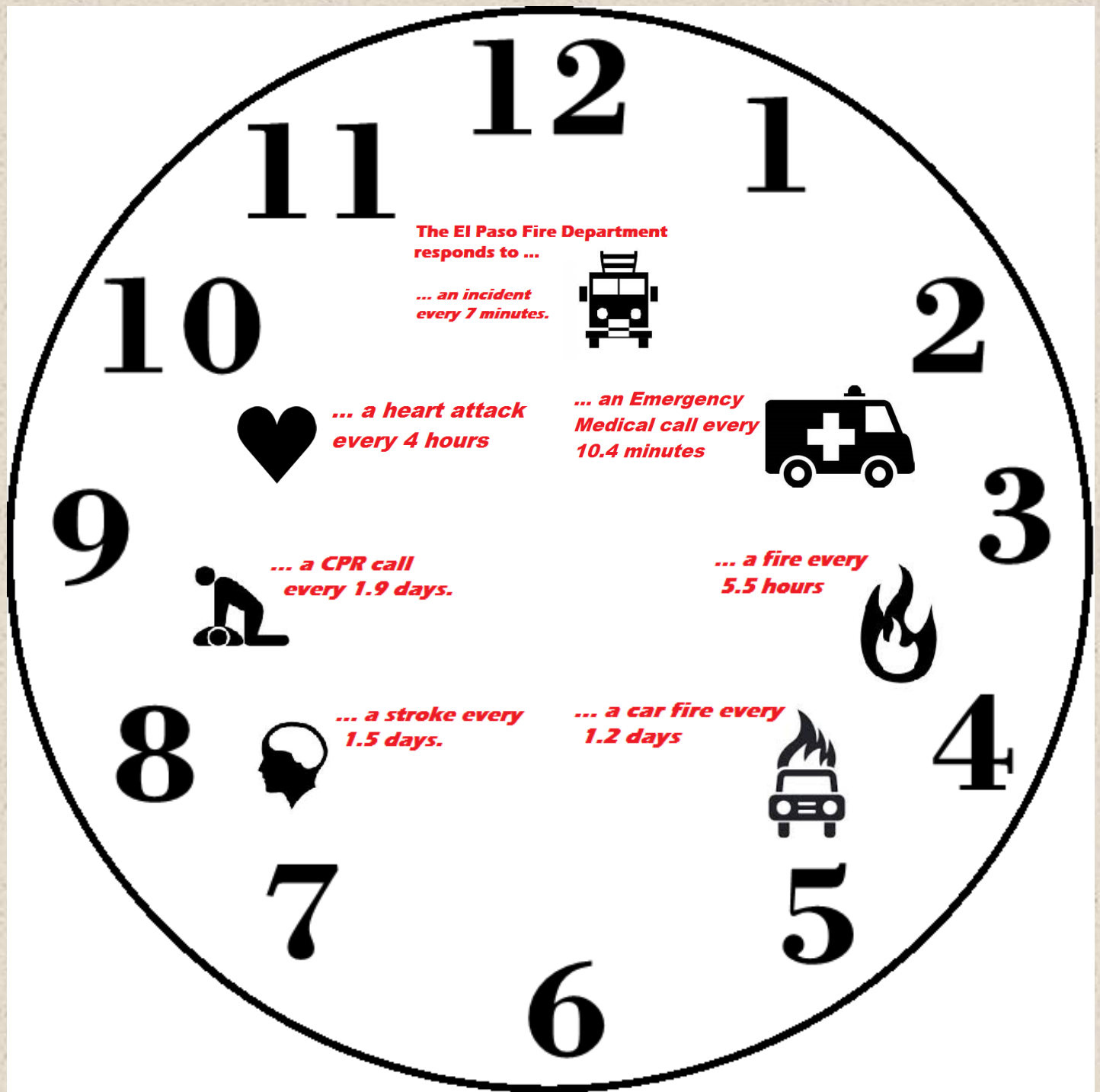
Area	Size	Population
City of El Paso	260 Square Miles	672,538

Incident Comparison Chart

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fire Incidents	1,765	1,892	1,734	1,559
Rescue and EMS Incidents	49,852	47,724	49,700	50,460
Service Calls	7,773	9,718	8,287	8,911
Hazardous Conditions	1,384	1,393	1,327	1,282
Good Intent Calls	7,923	7,893	8,536	9,344
Other Calls	111	128	68	62
False Alarms	2,450	2,704	2,644	2,835
Total Calls	71,258	71,452	72,296	74,453

Casualty/Loss Comparison Chart

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fire Service Injuries	112	104	155	149
Civilian Fire Injuries	50	66	63	24
Civilian Fire Deaths	10	9	4	0
Fire Loss	\$11,919,662	\$14,520,650	\$13,667,660	\$14,303,025



**There were
24 civilian
fire related
injuries
in 2013**



**There were
149 firefighter
injuries in
2013**



**There were
NO civilian
fire related
deaths in
2013**

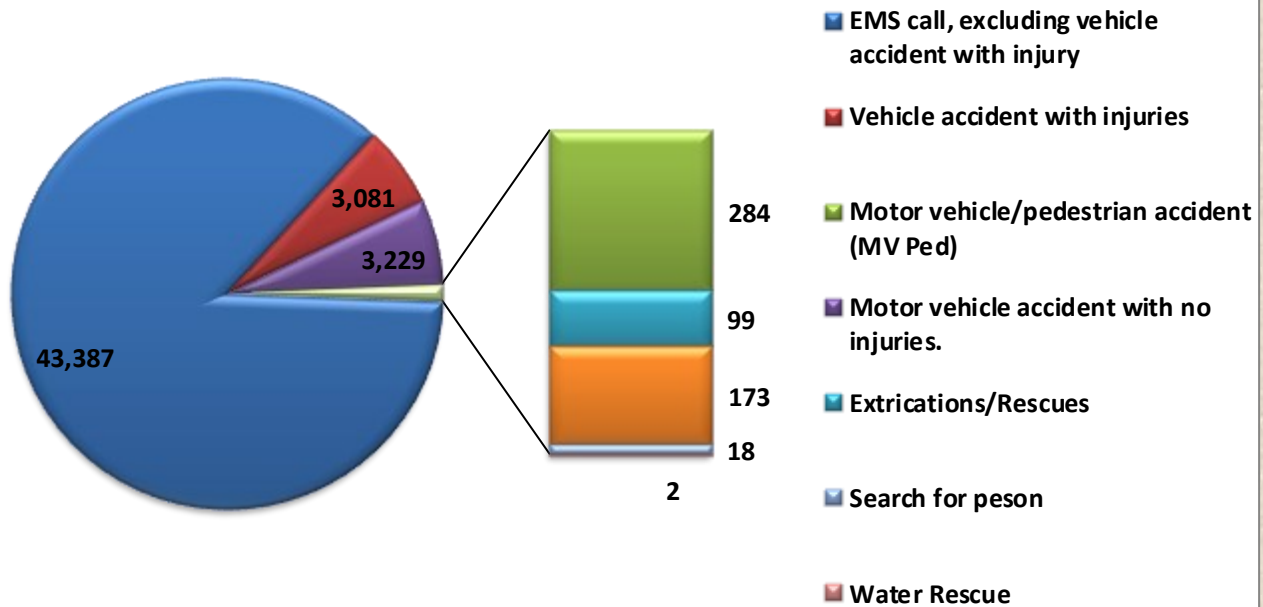


**There was
\$14,303,025
total property
lost to fire
in 2013**

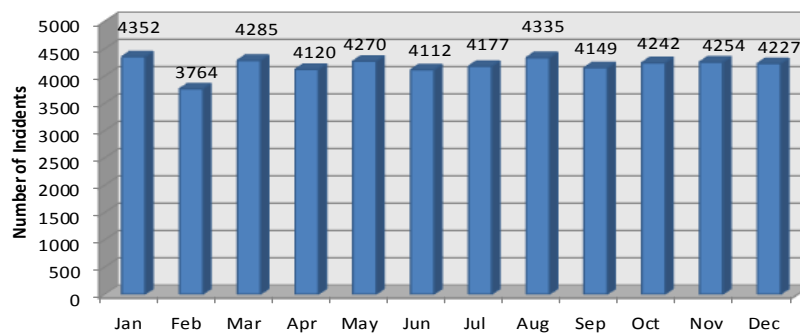


Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents

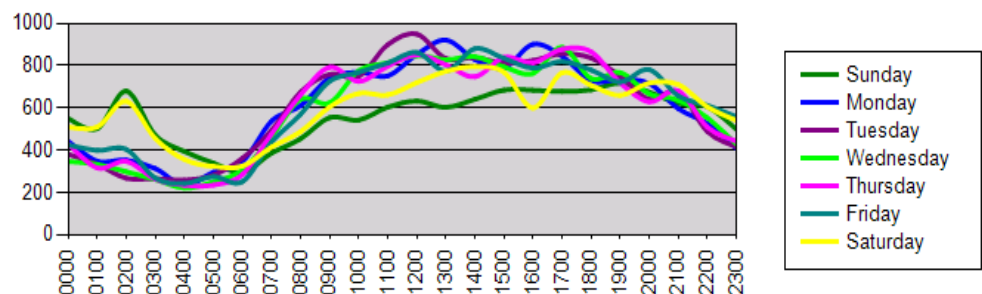
EMS Incidents by Type



Medical Incidents

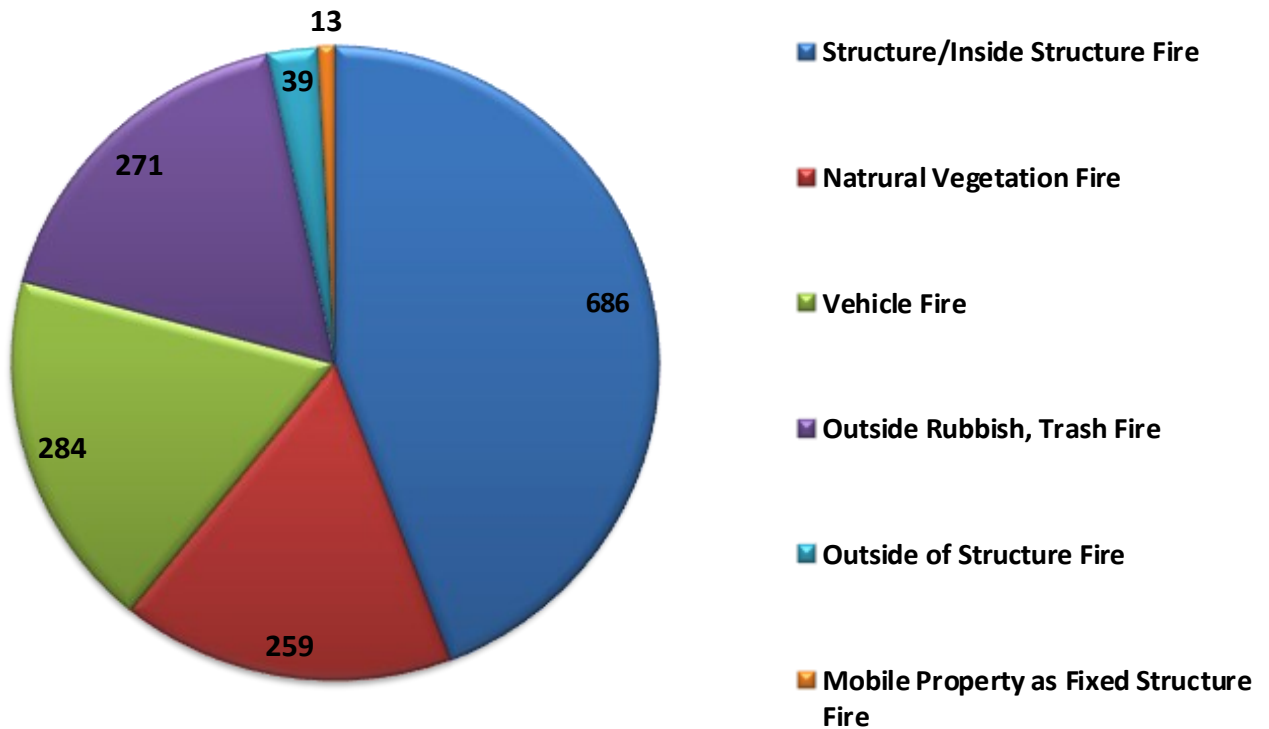


Hourly Company Response Frequency by Day of Week

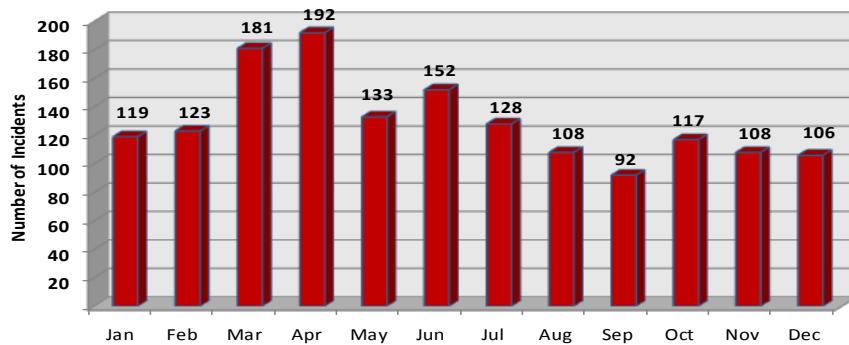


Fire Incidents

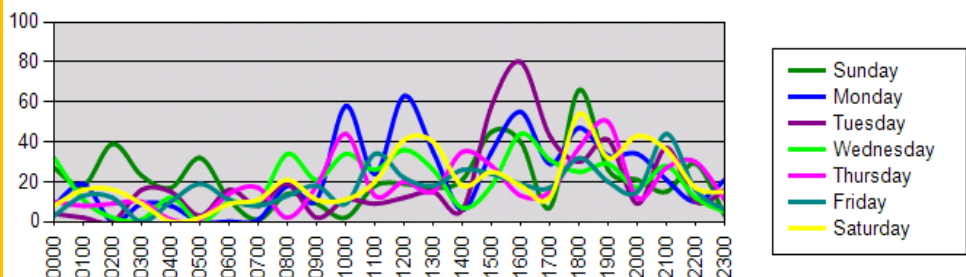
Fire Incidents by Type



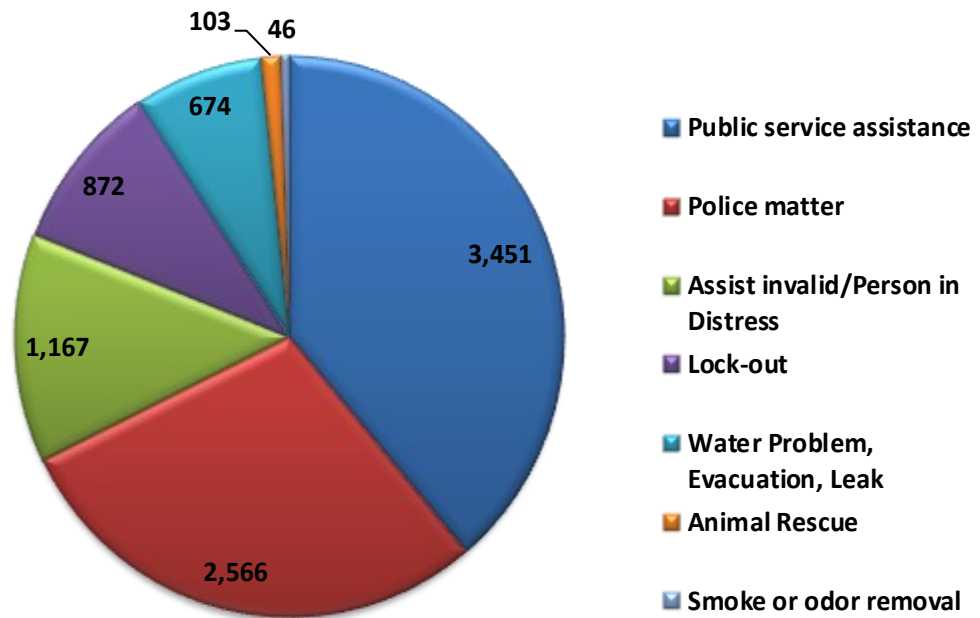
Fire Incidents



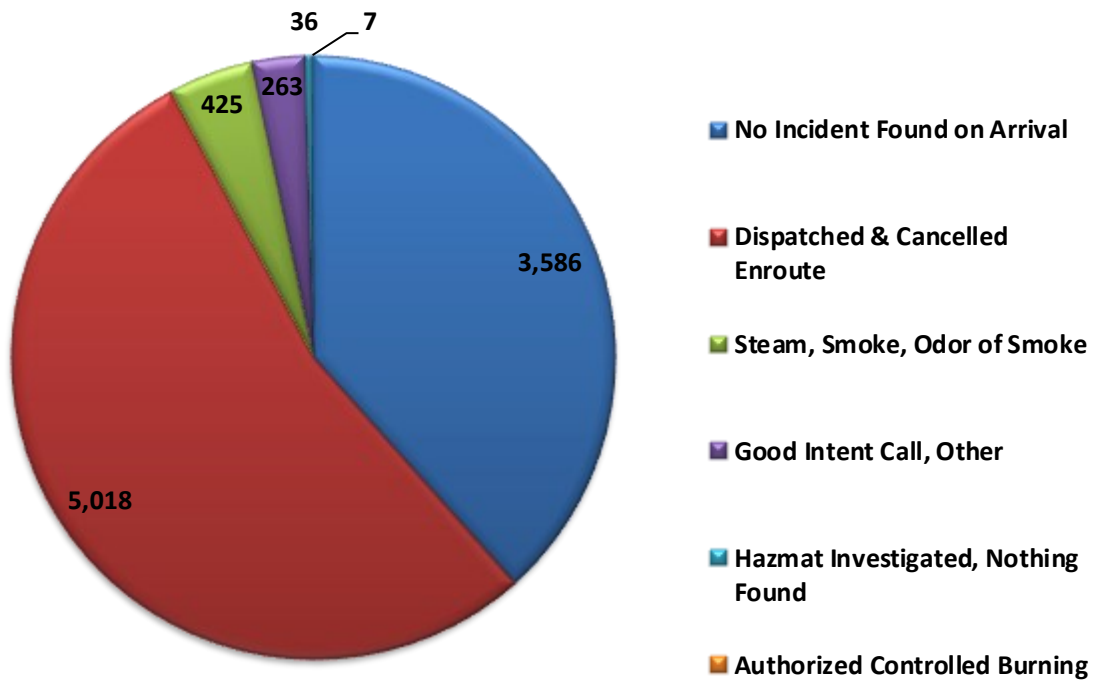
Hourly Company Response Frequency by Day of Week



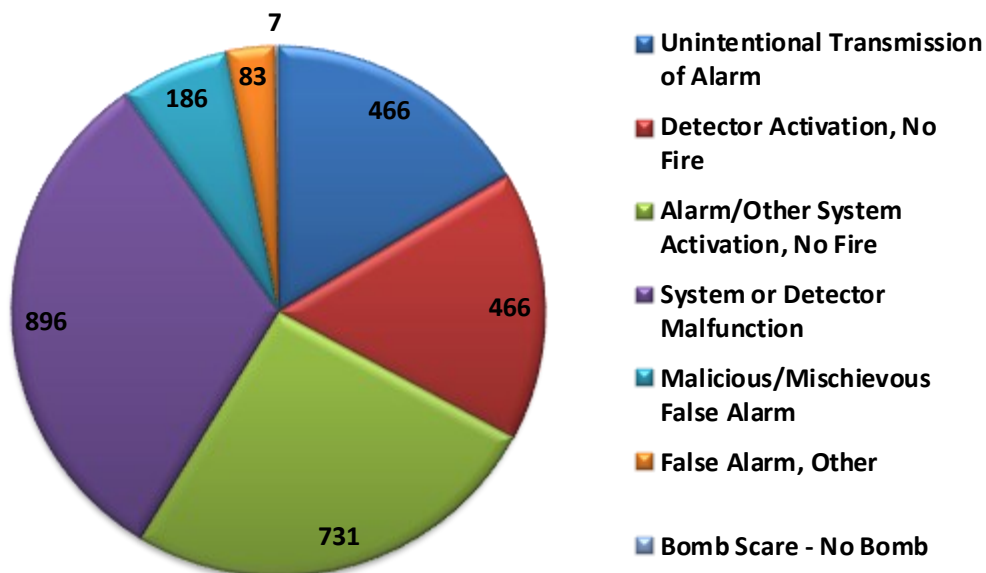
Service Calls



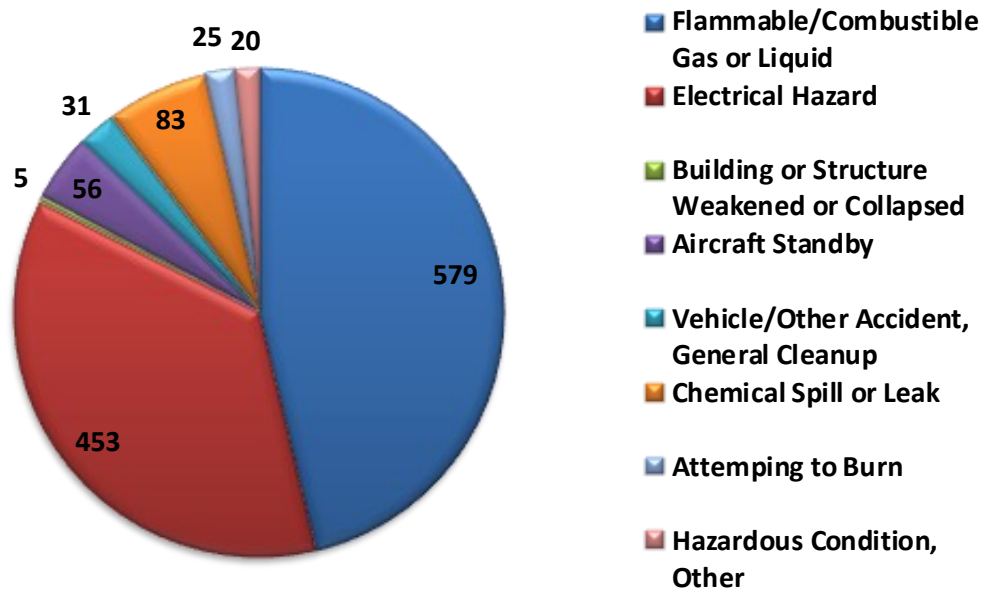
Good Intent Calls



False Alarms

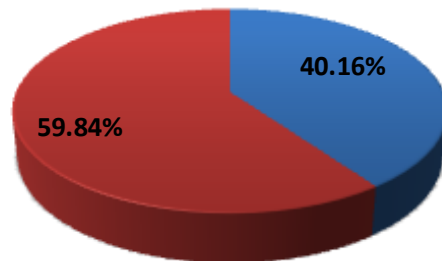


Hazardous Conditions, No Fire



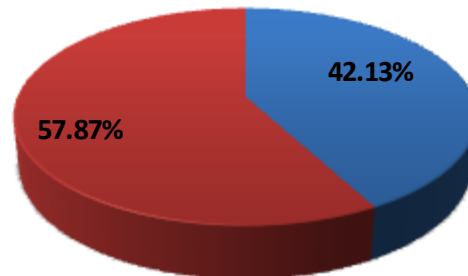
Fire Emergencies

Structure Fires Confined to Room of Origin



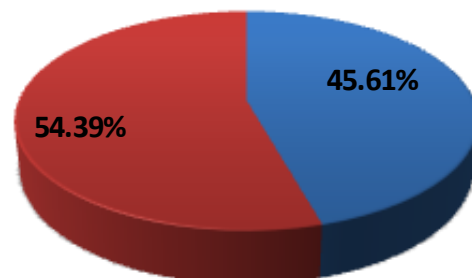
■ Fires Confined to Room of Origin ■ Fires NOT Confined to Room of Origin

Fire Response Turnout Times of 1:30 or less



■ Turnout Time less than 1:30 ■ Turnout Time greater than 1:30

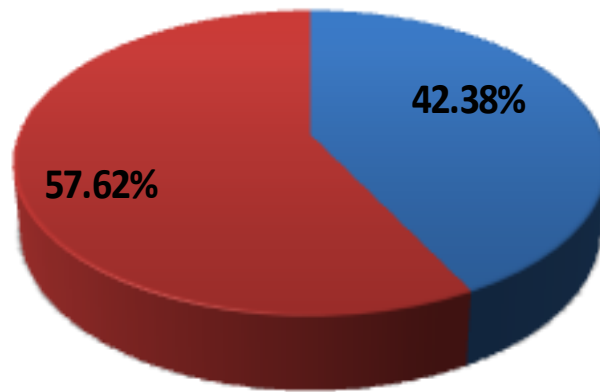
Fire Response Travel Times of 5:30 or less



■ Travel Time less than 5:30 ■ Travel Time greater than 5:30

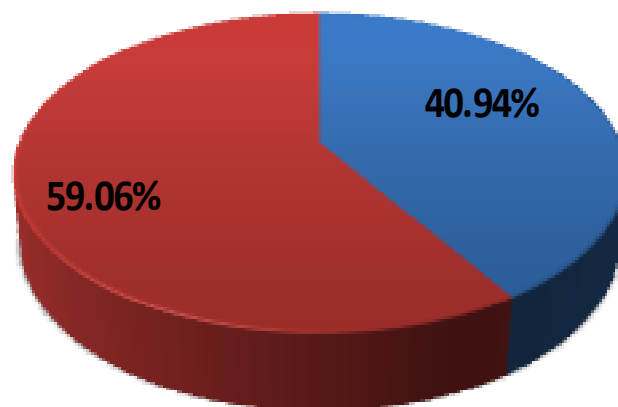
Medical Emergencies

Advanced Life Support Responses with Turnout time of 1:30 or less



■ Turnout Time less than 1:30 ■ Turnout Time greater than 1:30

Advanced Life Support Responses with Travel time of 6:00 or less



■ Travel Time less than 6:00 ■ Travel Time greater than 6:00



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Retirements

NAME	RANK	YEARS OF SERVICE
Michael Calderazzo	Assistant Fire Chief	21
Carlos Carmona	Assistant Fire Chief	30
Manuel Chavira	Assistant Fire Chief	31
Keith Burch	Deputy Chief	26
James Carvalho	Battalion Chief	29
Matthew Hiatt	Battalion Chief	24
Enrique Garza	Captain	23
Christopher Johnson	Captain	28
Jay B. Willey	Captain	22
Paul Bustamonte	Lieutenant	27
Gordon Elquist	Lieutenant	29
Cesar Gonzalez	Lieutenant	30
Ricardo Grajeda	Lieutenant	28
George Nieto	Lieutenant	22
Russell Rinker	Lieutenant	24
Jorge F. Sanchez	Lieutenant	36
Randy Crum	Fire Paramedic	32
Ruben Loweree	Fire Suppression Technician	32
Juan Medina	Fire Suppression Technician	20
Rick Sneddon	Fire Suppression Technician	21
Abel Duque	Paramedic	20
Jeffrey Omspaugh	Firefighter	20
Luis Rodarte	Firefighter	30



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Promotions

FIRE CHIEF

Samuel Peña

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Samuel Rodriguez

Mario D'Agostino

Calvin Shanks

DEPUTY CHIEF

Orlando Arriola

Rafael Reyes

BATTALION CHIEF

Raymond Carreon
Arturo Provencio

Carlos Franco
Manuel Rodriguez

Francisco Gallegos Jr.
Jerry Villanueva

CAPTAIN

Michael Bell
Ricardo Gallegos
Hector Hernandez
Carl Manning
Dennis Redd
Michael Welch

Sara Carillo
Ricardo Gonzalez
Milton W. Jones
Jesus Ochoa
Dennis Rhodes
James Younger

Joseph Conner
Julius Gutierrez
Jonathon Killings
Scott Ray
Luis Urbina
Fernando Zeh

LIEUTENANT

Luis Ahumada
Gregory Duran
Miguel Garcia
Jesse Hernandez
Ricardo Medina
Larry Perez Jr.
Efrain Robles Jr.
Alfredo Rosales
Christopher Zapata

Gabriel Chavira
Chris Elsworth
Aurelio Gonzalez
Mario Herrera
Joseph Mitotes
Gilbert Quinones
Jesus Robles
Daniel Roy

Darrack Davis
Manuel Garcia
David Guzman
Abraham Human
Seth Monroe
Jesus Ramon
Rafael Rodriguez Jr.
Samuel Villareal Jr.

FIRE SUPPRESSION TECHNICIAN

Allan Adame
Rodolfo Becerra
Chrisopher Carson
Aaron Gonzalez
Daniel Hernandez
Salvador Lozano Jr.
Anthony Mora
Reginald Ramirez
Enrique Rodriguez III
Victor Rodriguez
John Tobias

Gilbert Avila
Timothy Beghtel Jr.
Richard Concha
Maximo Gonzalez
Marco Hernandez
Steven Lujan
Jose Orpinel Jr.
Brandon Ripley
Juan Rodriguez
Adrain Sandoval
Robert Vasquez

Daniel Ames
Daniel Beltran Jr.
Michael Esparza
Antonio Hernandez
Jose Leos
Mitchell Marquez
Aldo Padilla
Carlos Rivas Jr.
Richard Rodriguez
Michael Solis



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Recruit Graduates

CLASS 84

Adrian Abascal
James Cardenas
Scottie Chambers
Bernardo De Luna
Ricardo Enriquez Jr.
Roberto Franco
Eric Gonzalez
Sergio Guillen
Michael Jimenez
Jaqueline Manriguez
Alonzo Morales
Hector Navarrete Jr.
Joseph Pando
Raul Pinales
Jason Ramirez
David Valenzuela Jr.
Rafael Yee

Joshua Acosta
Rolando Caro
Esteban Cobos
Paul Deneen
David Escobedo
John Gallegos
Francisco Gonzalez
Jesus Gutierrez Jr.
Joseph Lawson
Dennis Medina III
Alberto Moreno
Andres Ortega Jr.
Guerino Panfile
Ricardo Portillo
Jacob Serrano
Nathan Vasquez

Brian Barton
Silvestre Cedillos III
Sergio Contreras Jr.
Marco Duarte
Andre Escriche
Gabriel Gandara
Martin Gonzalez
Jesus Holguin
Esteban Licon
Miguel Monarez
Carlos Murillo
Humberto Pando Jr.
Juan Perez
David Ramirez Jr.
Robert Swainston
Sean Wilson

CLASS 85

Enrique Arroyo
Joshua Frausto
Shane Maxey
Eliana Torres

Maximo Castaneda
Paul Gonzalez
Juan Pacheco

Juan Dominguez
Bryce Hernandez
Jaime Serrano



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Achievement Awards



Firefighter Marc Mena

**Firefighter of the 1st Quarter
Pumper 13 (C-Shift)**



Firefighter Ernie Hernandez

**Firefighter of the 2nd Quarter
Squad 1 (A-Shift)
14 years of service**



Captain Kristian Menendez

**Firefighter of the 3rd Quarter
Pumper 22 (A-Shift)
16 years of service**



**Fire Suppression Technician
William Adler**

**Firefighter of the 4th Quarter
Pumper 29 (B-Shift)
20 years of service**



Firefighter Ernie Hernandez

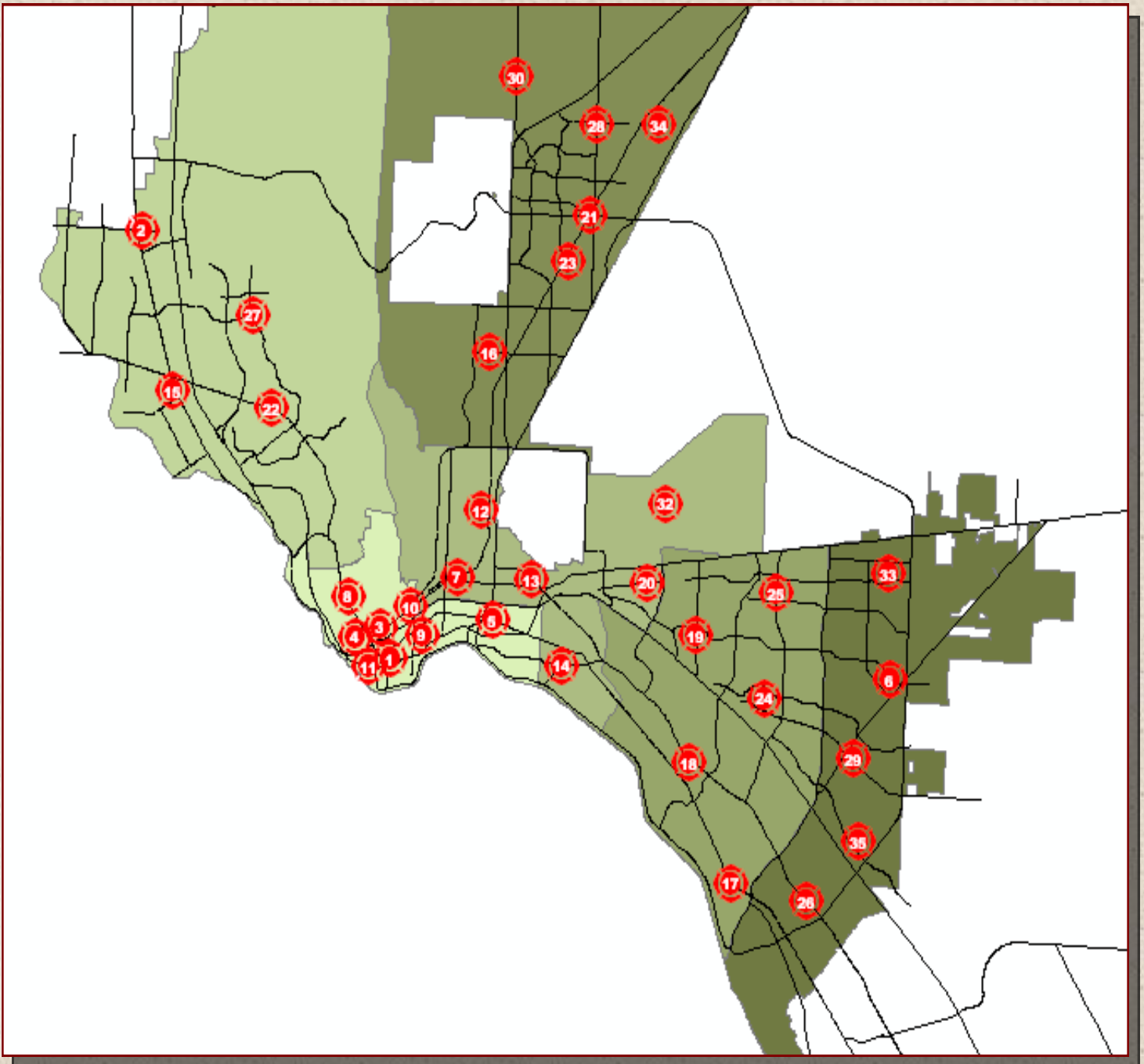
**Firefighter of the Year
Squad 1 (A-Shift)
14 years of service**



El Paso Fire Department



Fire Stations

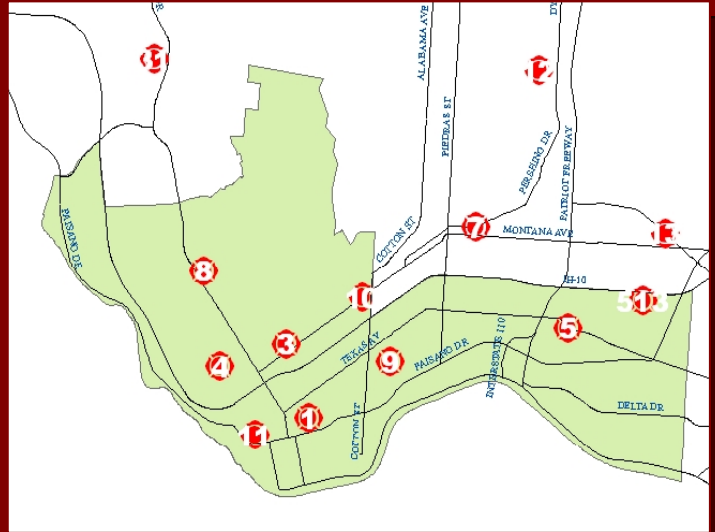


Battalion 1



CENTRAL

201 S. Florence	(1982)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Battalion 1</i>	180
<i>Pumper 1</i>	1,165
<i>Ladder 1</i>	869
<i>Rescue 1</i>	2,830
<i>HazMat 1</i>	840
<i>Squad 1</i>	794
	6,678



STATION 3

721 Rio Grande	(1930)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 3</i>	1,397
<i>Rescue 3</i>	2,385
<i>Water Rescue 3</i>	3
	3,884



STATION 4

1218 Randolph	(1908)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Rescue 4</i>	2,181
	2,181



STATION 9

47 Dallas	(2002)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 9</i>	1,622
<i>Rescue 9</i>	155
<i>Medic 9</i>	522
	2,299



STATION 11

314 S. Leon	(2002)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 11</i>	1,368
<i>Ladder 11</i>	1,185
<i>Spec Resc 11</i>	14
	2,567

Battalion 2



STATION 2

111 E. Borderland (1991)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 2</i>	1,457
<i>Rescue 2</i>	1,166
<i>Attack 2</i>	25
	2,648



STATION 8

301 E. Robinson (1948)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 8</i>	1,376
	1,376



STATION 15

115 Shorty Lane (1956)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 15</i>	1,201
<i>Pumper 51</i>	1,196
<i>Medic 15</i>	117
	2,514



STATION 22

6500 N. Mesa (1960)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Battalion 2</i>	250
<i>Pumper 22</i>	2,071
<i>Ladder 22</i>	1,741
<i>Rescue 22</i>	2,153
<i>Medic 22</i>	442
	6,957



STATION 27

6767 Ojo De Agua (2000)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 27</i>	1,866
<i>Rescue 27</i>	1,528
	3,394



STATION 31

122 Mesa Park (2012)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Quint 31</i>	1,411
<i>Rescue 31</i>	1,389
<i>ROC 31</i>	74
	2,874

Battalion 3



STATION 5

4240 Alameda (1949)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 5</i>	1,568
<i>Ladder 5</i>	1,235
<i>Rescue 5</i>	1,683
	4,486



STATION 7

3200 Pershing (1958)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Battalion 3</i>	303
<i>Pumper 7</i>	1,549
<i>Quint 7</i>	1,622
<i>Medic 7</i>	138
<i>Rescue 7</i>	28
	3,640



STATION 10

1801 Montana (1930)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 10</i>	1,659
	1,659



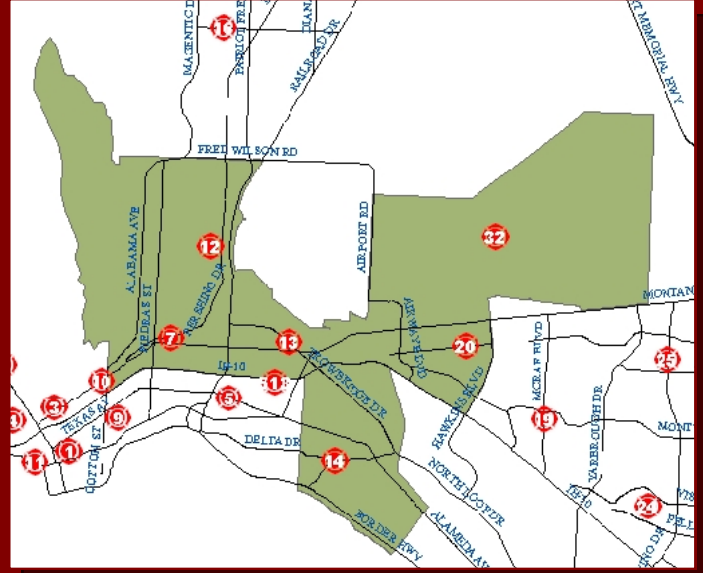
STATION 13

5414 Trowbridge (1953)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 13</i>	2,459
<i>Rescue 13</i>	311
<i>Medic 13</i>	178
	2,948



STATION 20

8301 Edgemere (1960)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 20</i>	1,715
<i>Quint 20</i>	1,722
<i>Rescue 20</i>	1,812
	5,249



STATION 32

101 George Perry (1995)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>ARFF 1</i>	16
<i>ARFF 2</i>	58
<i>ARFF 3</i>	43
<i>ARFF 4</i>	266
<i>ARFF 5</i>	55
<i>ARFF 6</i>	9
<i>Rescue 32</i>	357
	804

Battalion 4



STATION 14

6300 Delta (1955)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 14</i>	1,930
<i>Rescue 14</i>	2,012
	3,942



STATION 18

721 Rio Grande (1930)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 18</i>	2,177
<i>Quint 18</i>	2,155
<i>Rescue 18</i>	2,315
<i>Medic 18</i>	478
	7,125



STATION 19

2405 McRae (1960)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 19</i>	2,764
<i>Rescue 19</i>	2,062
	4,824



STATION 24

1498 Lomaland (1975)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Battalion 4</i>	385
<i>Pumper 24</i>	2,292
<i>Ladder 24</i>	1,881
<i>Rescue 24</i>	2,260
<i>Decon 24</i>	2
	6,820



STATION 25

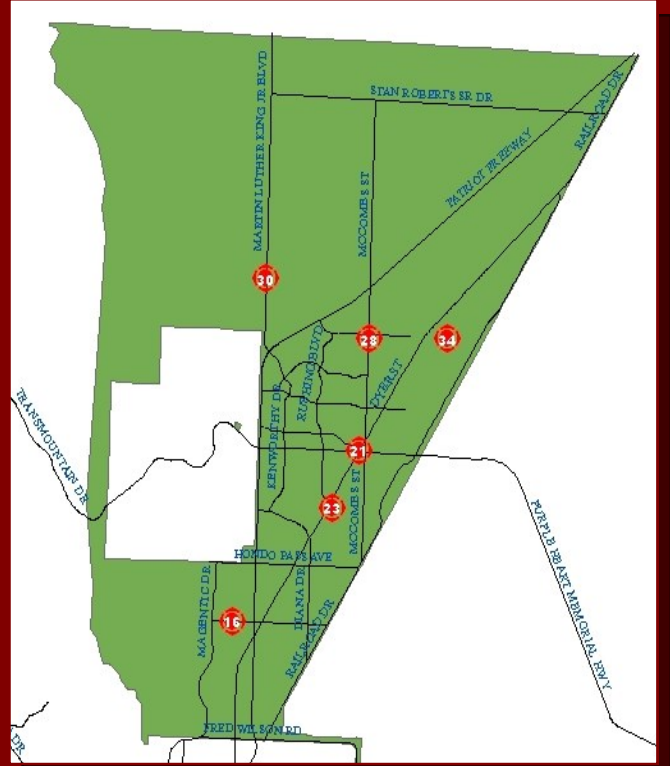
10834 Ivanhoe (1978)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 25</i>	2,980
<i>Rescue 25</i>	2,066
	5,046

Battalion 5



STATION 12

3801 Fort Blvd	(1947)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 12</i>	2,580
<i>Rescue 12</i>	2,678
	5,258



STATION 16

3823 Hercules	(1969)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 16</i>	1,902
<i>Quint 16</i>	1,859
<i>Rescue 16</i>	2,282
<i>Decon 16</i>	3
	6.046



STATION 21

10000 Dyer	(1960)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 21</i>	2,764
<i>Rescue 21</i>	2,435
	5.199



STATION 23

5315 Threadgill	(1967)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Battalion 5</i>	216
<i>Pumper 23</i>	2,906
<i>Rescue 23</i>	2,293
	5,225



STATION 30

4451 Loma Clara	(2001)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 30</i>	1,107
<i>Medic 30</i>	99
<i>Attack 30</i>	4
	1,210



STATION 28

10800 McCombs	(1986)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Quint 28</i>	1,763
<i>Rescue 28</i>	1,711
	3,474



STATION 34

6565 Angora Loop	(2007)
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 34</i>	692
	692

Battalion 6



1850 Firehouse (1992)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Quint 6</i> (Jan-Jul)	1,411
<i>Pumper 6</i> (Jul-Dec)	1,086
<i>Rescue 6</i>	1,658
	4,155

STATION 6



8803 Alameda (1958)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 17</i>	1,699
<i>Quint 17</i>	1,641
<i>Rescue 17</i>	1,851
	5,191

STATION 17



9418 North Loop (1980)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 26</i>	2,003
<i>Rescue 26</i>	1,891
	3,894

STATION 26



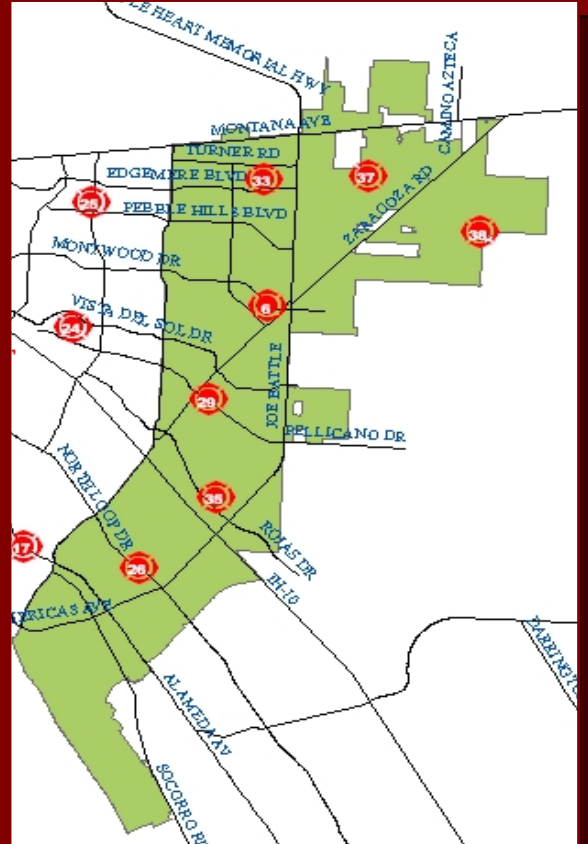
11977 Pelicano (2001)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 29</i>	2,746
<i>Rescue 29</i>	1,934
	4,680

STATION 29



3475 Nolan Richardson (2006)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Pumper 33</i>	2,257
<i>Rescue 33</i>	1,680
<i>ROC 33</i>	105
	4,042

STATION 33



STATION 35

12230 Pine Springs (2006)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Battalion 6</i>	201
<i>Pumper 35</i> (Jan-Jul)	1,107
<i>Quint 35</i> (Jul-Dex)	99
	1,210



STATION 37

12950 R.C. Poe (2013)	
Apparatus	Responses
<i>Quint 37</i>	903
<i>Rescue 37</i>	534
	1,437



El Paso Fire Department



Fire Department Apparatus



A Pumper carries 500 gallons of water, over 3,000 feet of fire hose, ground ladders, firefighting equipment, and medical equipment. It is staffed with 3 to 4 firefighters/EMTs.

A Ladder carries a 65 to 100 foot telescoping ladder. It carries power tools, firefighting equipment, ground ladders and medical equipment. It is staffed with 3 to 4 firefighters/EMTs.



A Quint is a combination between a pumper and a ladder apparatus. The five major components are water tank, aerial ladder, ground ladders, firefighting hose, and pump. It is staffed with 3 to 4 firefighters/EMTs.

A Rescue (or Ambulance) is a vehicle for pre-hospital treatment and transportation of sick or injured people. They also respond to fire incidents as firefighters or as a rehab unit. It is usually staffed with 1 EMT and 1 Paramedic who are certified structural firefighters.



Battalion units are pickup trucks equipped with emergency lights and sirens. These vehicles are staffed with a Battalion Chief and a driver. Battalion Chiefs are command staff officers and take charge of large scale incidents. The units carry equipment for Rapid Intervention Teams, Rehab, Pre-incident surveys and air monitoring.



HazMat 1 carries equipment, such as protective suits and monitoring devices and responds to major hazardous materials incidents. It is staffed with 3 firefighter/EMT's who are trained as hazardous materials technicians.



Squad 1 is a pick-up truck that carries firefighting and medical equipment. It is staffed with 3 firefighter/EMT's who are also trained as hazardous materials technicians and respond to all large fires and hazardous material incidents.

A Special Rescue unit responds to emergency incidents such as trench or building collapses and high angle rescues. It is staffed with personnel from Fire Station 11 who are trained as special rescue technicians.



A Decon unit responds to hazardous material emergencies. This unit carries equipment used for decontaminating patients and first responders. It is staffed with personnel from Fire Station 16 or Fire Station 24 when needed.

An Attack unit is a pick up truck with a pump on a flat bed. This 4x4 vehicle carries 300 gallons of water, hose and equipment for wild-land type fires, or areas that pumpers or quints cannot access. This unit also carries foam and responds to fuel spills.



A Water Rescue unit is a pick up truck and trailer with air raft boat and jet ski. It is stationed at Fire Station 3 and responds to water rescue emergencies.

An Airport Rescue & Firefighting unit carries up to 3,000 gallons of water and 400 gallons of foam. They must respond to the mid point of the furthest runway in 3 minutes or less for an aircraft emergency. It staffs 1 Aircraft firefighter.

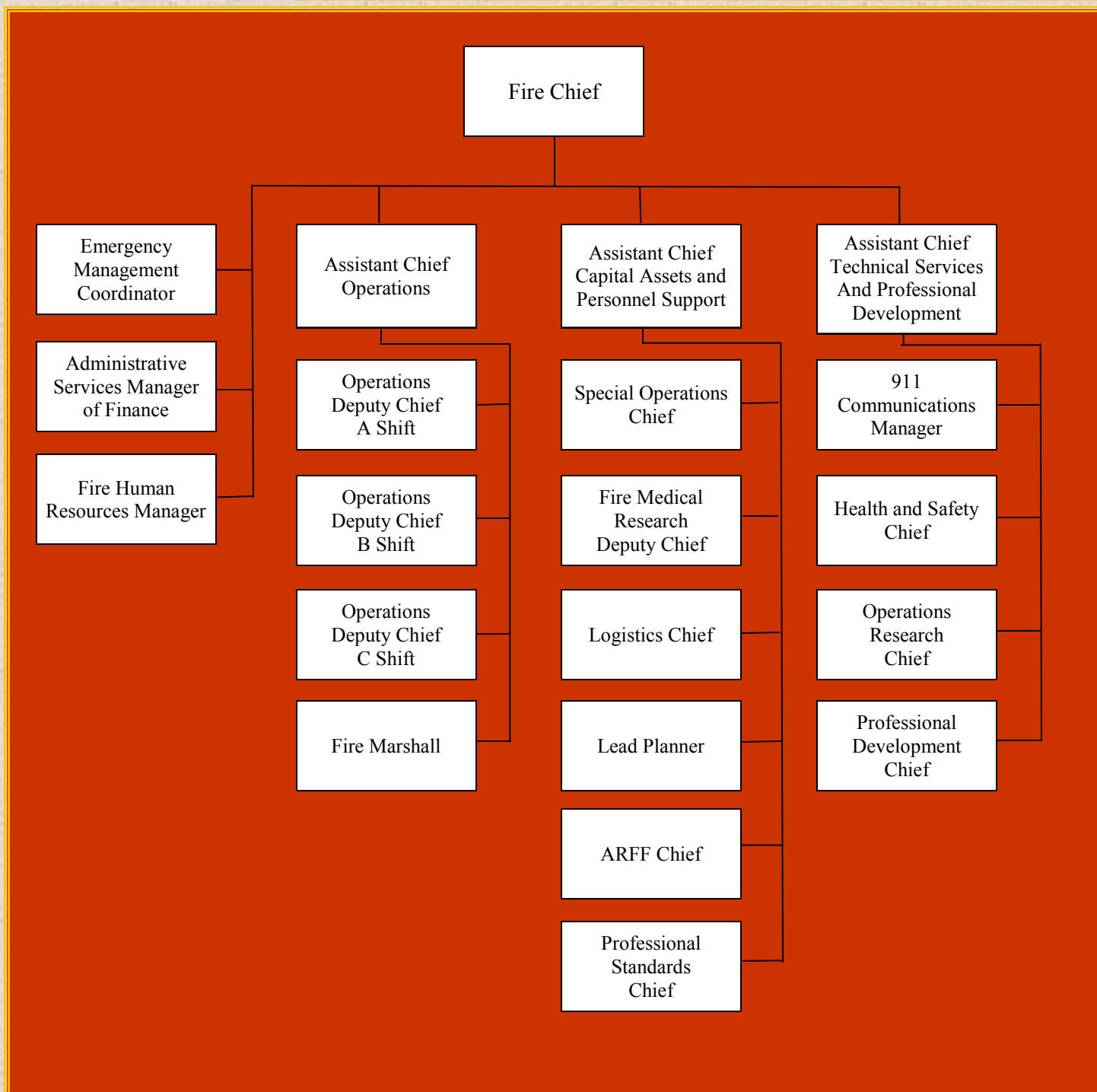




El Paso Fire Department



Organizational Chart





El Paso Fire Department



Office of the Fire Chief



Samuel Peña
Fire Chief

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES — FINANCE DIVISION

FIRE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

OPERATIONS DIVISION

CAPITAL ASSETS AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT DIVISION

TECHNICAL SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Office of Emergency Management

The purpose of the El Paso Office of Emergency Management Program is to provide planning, training, coordination, and communication services to the community and regional partners so they can prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from natural and man-made disasters and large scale emergencies, resulting in a hazard resilient community.



Scott Calderwood
Emergency
Management
Coordinator

2013

**2,750 Volunteer Hours Donated through Training Outreach
50 Emergency Plan Reviews and Consultations Provided
11 Disaster Response Exercises Conducted**

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is funded by a competitive grant, Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), and matched by the City of El Paso and El Paso County. The El Paso Fire Dept. manages the office and EMPG, but represents the City and all jurisdictions in the County. OEM is responsible for developing and maintaining emergency response plans, developing relationships and train with local, regional, state, and federal agencies, providing agency coordination to support incident commanders with resources, providing outreach and emergency notifications to the public, assisting public officials with decision making, and assisting with the recovery phase during large scale emergencies, disasters, and special events. Other responsibilities include maintaining Citizen Emergency Response Teams and managing remaining federal grants

Major Exercises with OEM Participation, Coordination, or Assistance

- *Fort Bliss Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise in January
- *CDC/Poison Control Center/211 Influenza Triage Full-Scale Exercise in February
- *Canutillo High School Active Shooter Functional Exercise in March
- *Kinder Morgan Annual Hazwoper Training Exercise in April
- *FBI Active Shooter Workshop in April
- *Socorro ISD Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise in April
- *Hazmat Release/EOC Activation Full-Scale Exercise with North American Aerospace Defense Command in May
- *Hurricane Evacuation Patients Full-Scale Exercise with Ft. Bliss National Defense Medical System in May
- *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Point of Dispensing/Antivirals Tabletop Exercise in June
- *Cielo Vista Active Shooter Drill with local law enforcement in June
- *UTEP BioScience Research Medical Emergency/Rescue Tabletop Exercise in July
- *Biological Agent Release Full-Scale Exercise with the Health Dept. in July
- *Bomb Explosion/Mass Casualty Drill at UTEP School of Nursing in August
- *El Paso International Airport Aircraft Accident Functional Exercise in October
- *Elephant Butte and Caballo Lake Dams Emergency Flood Tabletop Exercise in September
- *Western/EPFD Refinery Drill in November



The Emergency Operations Center was fully activated at a Level 1, Maximum Readiness, on the afternoon of September 12, 2013 due to flooding across El Paso County. Flooded streets and power outages were widespread. Various agencies responded to the EOC to assist IC's to mitigate emergencies across the City and County. The City of Socorro was hit the hardest. Residents on Kolder Road were trapped by water and mud. Border Patrol assisted with evacuations and a shelter was provided for displaced families.

Finance



Katherine N. Cote
Public Safety Fiscal
Operations
Administrator

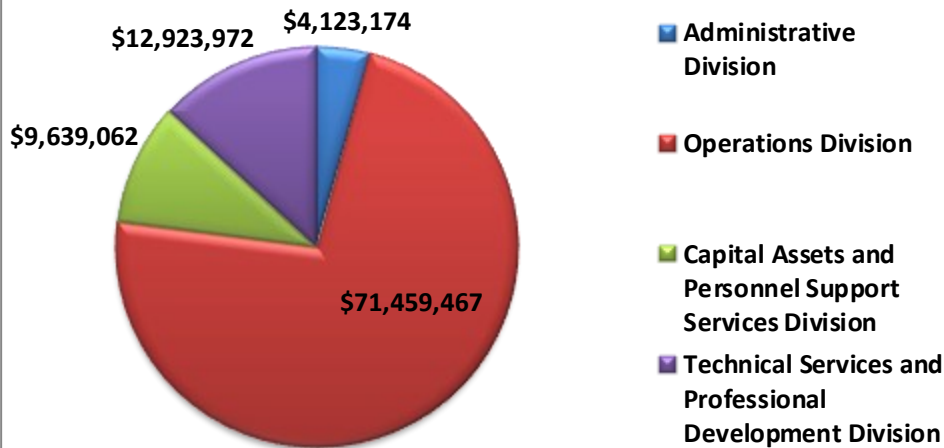
2013

5654 Vendor Invoices Paid
\$514,309 Dollars Awarded Locally

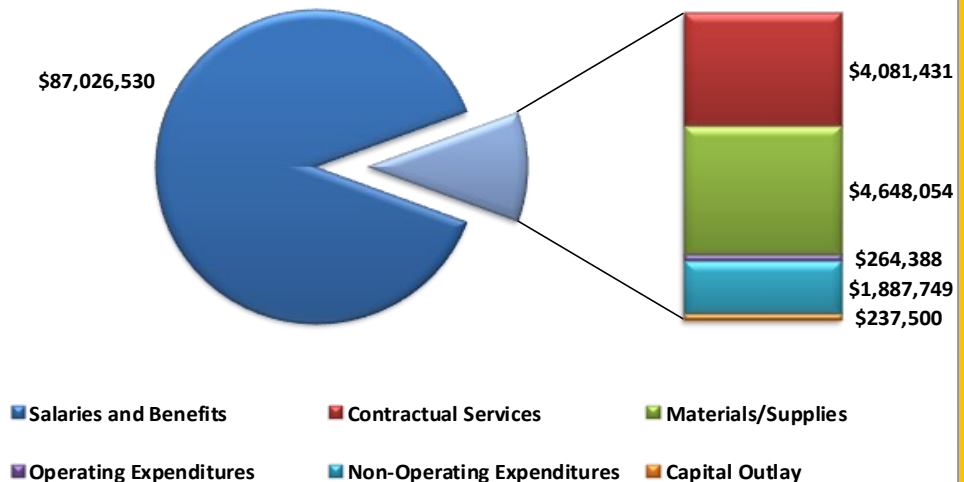
Finance Program

The purpose of the Finance program is to provide financial management and reporting services to city and department leadership so they can receive accurate and timely information to make decisions.

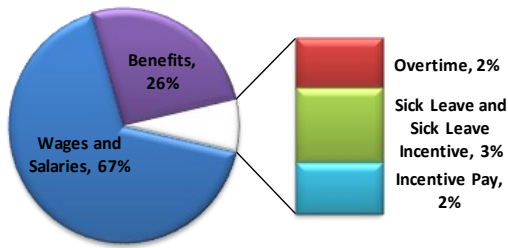
General Fund by Division



Budget Summary



Uniform Salary Detail

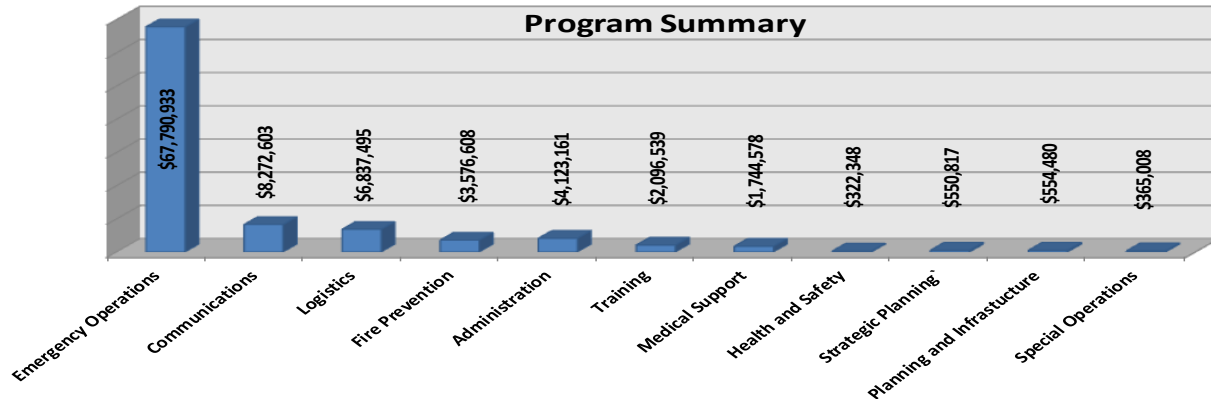


Adoption of FY2014 Budget

On August 20, 2013, City Council adopted the FY2014 General Fund Budget of \$351,255,869. This was a 4.7% increase over the previous year's budget.

The El Paso Fire Department also saw a 4.7% increase in their budget. The FY2014 Fire Department adopted budget was \$96,234,569.

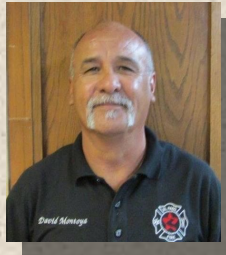
Program Summary



Alex Morales
Senior Financial
Research Analyst



Debra Olivas
Senior Financial
Research Analyst



David Montoya
Financial Research
Analyst



Gabriella Hamilton
Accounting Clerk



Jaime Mendez
Accounting Clerk

Grant Administration Program

Grant Administration Program

The purpose of the Grant Administration Program is to provide grant application, tracking and reporting services to the Department so it can have access to additional funding to fulfill its mission.



Frank Gallegos
Battalion Chief

2013

5 Grant Programs Managed
\$6,903,671 Grant Funds Managed

Fire Human Resources

The purpose of the Human Resources program is to provide information, guidance, and support services to the department so it can have the resources available to achieve the department's mission.



Monica Puga
Fire Human Resources
Division

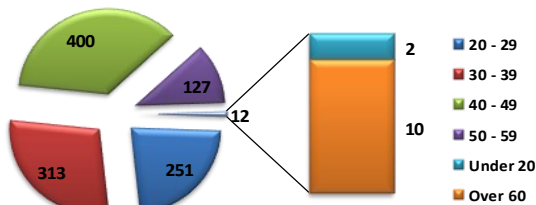
2013

100 New Hires Processed
979 Employees Receiving human Relations Training

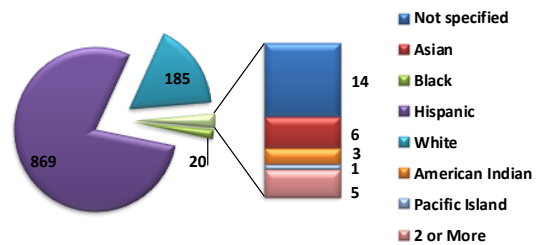
892 Uniformed Employees

194 Civilian Employees

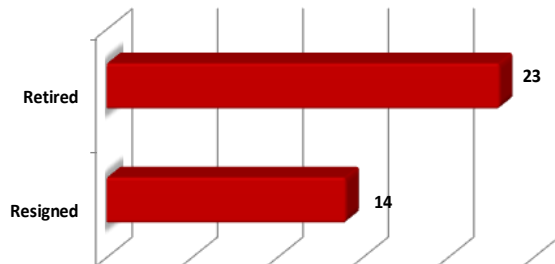
Employees by Age Group



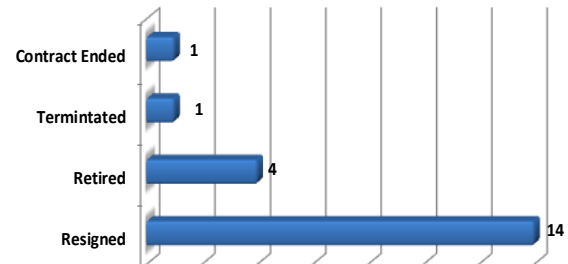
Employees by Ethnicity



Uniform Employees Leaving



Civilian Employees Leaving



Lilia Vega
Lead Human
Resource Specialist



Margaret Carrillo
CBA Payroll Clerk



Linda Sandoval
Human Resource
Specialist



Isela Rodriguez
Senior Office
Assistant



Raquel Morales
CBA Payroll Clerk



Angelica Emiliano
CBA Payroll Clerk



Nancy Groh
Human Resource
Analyst



Randy Heredia
Human Resource
Analyst



El Paso Fire Department



Operations Division

The purpose of the Operations Division is to provide response, investigation and prevention services to the residents, businesses, visitors and emergency responders so they can experience timely, accurate and appropriate requests and prevent incidents through education and community outreach.



Samuel Rodriguez
Fire Assistant Chief
Operations

A SHIFT

B SHIFT

C SHIFT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Operations A Shift

Emergency Operations Response Program

The purpose of the Emergency Operations Response Program is to provide emergency medical, fire suppression, prevention, and specialized rescue services to residents, businesses and visitors of our city so they can have rapid and effective responses to emergencies.



Rafael Reyes
Deputy Chief



Vincent Frausto
Battalion 1



Robert Arvizu
Battalion 2



Ramon Valencia
Battalion 3



James Fanning
Battalion 4

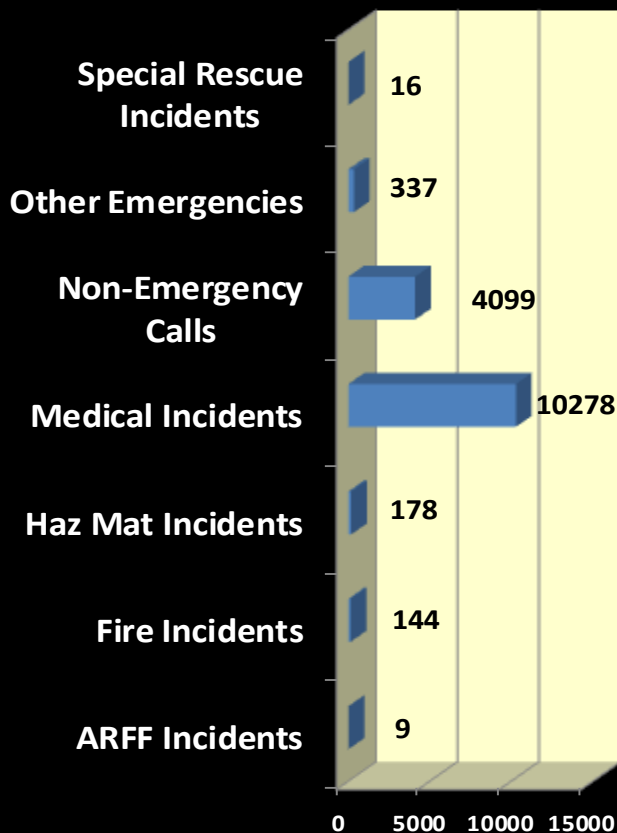


James Carvalho
Battalion 5

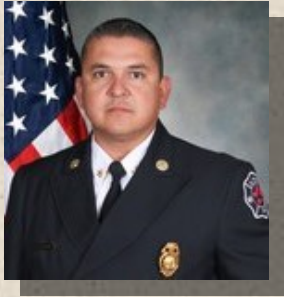


Brad St. Myers
Battalion 6

2013 Incidents A Shift



Operations B Shift



Avelardo Talavera
Deputy Chief
Operations B Shift



Jerry Villanueva
Battalion 1



George Medina
Battalion 2



Edward Snyder
Battalion 3



David Rios
Battalion 4

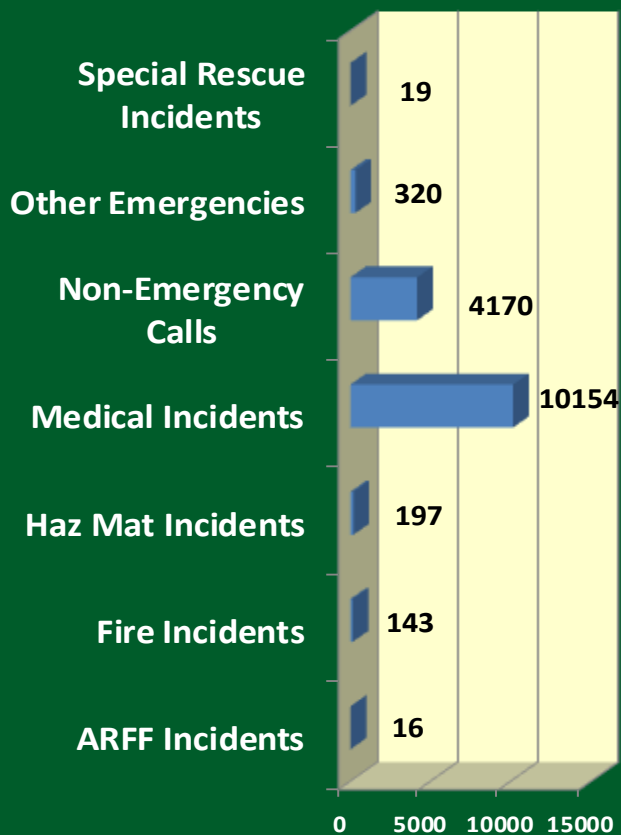


Michael Moss
Battalion 5



Raymond Carreon
Battalion 6

2013 Incidents B Shift



Operations C Shift



Christopher Celaya
Deputy Chief
Operations C Shift



Ricci Carson
Battalion 1



Benjamin Ibarra
Battalion 2



Emir Ortiz
Battalion 3



Carlos Franco
Battalion 4

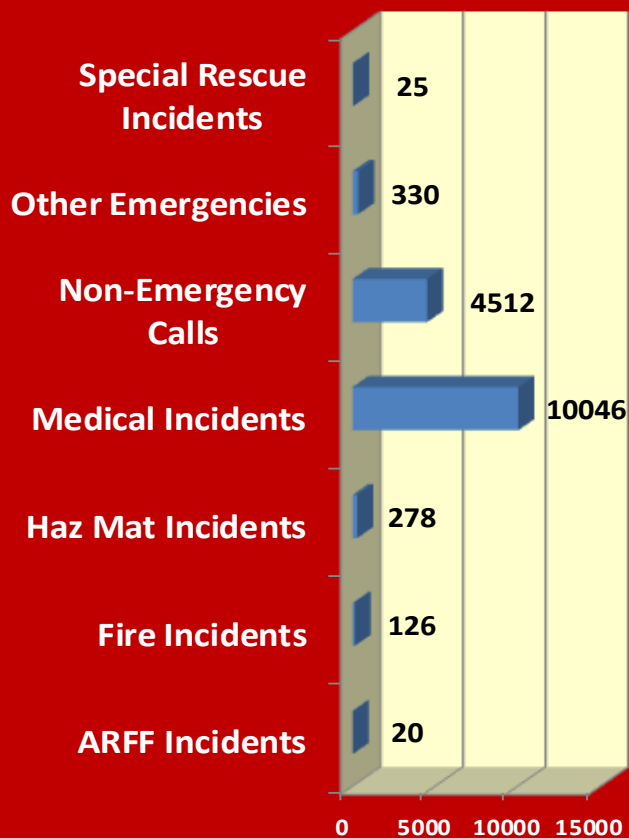


Matt Hiatt
Battalion 5



Matt Thomas
Battalion 6

2013 Incidents C Shift



Fire Prevention Division



Orlando Arriola
Fire Marshal



Carl Manning
Captain

Construction Code Compliance Program

The purpose of the Construction Code Compliance Program is to provide plan review, construction inspection, and code application services to the building construction industry and tenants so they can build and occupy safe, fire code compliant buildings in a timely manner.



Ricardo Flores
Lieutenant
CCC

2013

750 Building Plan Reviews Conducted
1000 Fire Protection System Plan Reviews Conducted

Fire Inspector I

The CCC program achieved certification for all inspectors as plan review certified by ICC as Fire Inspector I

Fire Plan Review played in significant part in the following:

The Fountains
Demolition of City Hall
Demolition of Asarco Smokestacks
New City Hall and Supporting Buildings
Remodeling of Sierra Providence East
Progress of UMC Childrens Hospital and support buildings
Montecillo Apartments (Mixed use Smart Living apartments)

Community Risk Reduction Program

The purpose of the Community Risk Reduction Program is to provide fire and life safety educational services to the El Paso community and its visitors so they can have the knowledge, skills and tools to build a safer, more resilient community.



Fernando Valencia
Lieutenant
CRR

2013

745 Home Safety Surveys Conducted
332 Fire/Life Safety Presentations Delivered

The El Paso Fire Department was awarded the Department Assistance to Firefighter's Grant through the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program in order to provide working smoke alarms for at-risk households in our community. This grant enabled the Fire Department to purchase up to 3,636 extended-life lithium battery smoke alarms for installation in area homes.

The smoke alarm installation initiative meets our department's mission objectives of saving lives and protecting property through prevention and education.



Fire Prevention Division

Fire Investigations Program

The purpose of the Fire Investigations program is to provide investigation, prevention, training and certification services to the community of El Paso, its visitors, the Fire Department and other governmental agencies so they can be informed of the cause of fires and reduce or eliminate preventable fires.

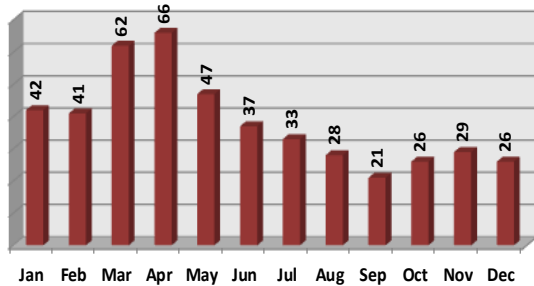


Carlos Lopez
Lieutenant
Fire Investigations

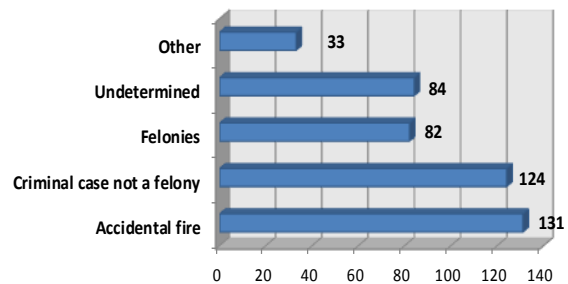
2013

24 Juvenile Fire Setter Interventions/Education Contacts Made
18 Personnel Receiving Origin and Cause Certification
3.625 Origin and Cause Investigation Hours
(1,825 Major, 1,800 Minor)

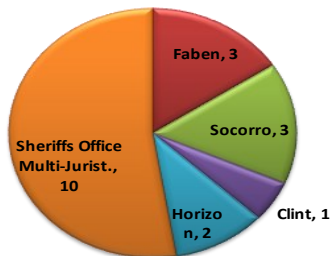
2013 Fire Investigations



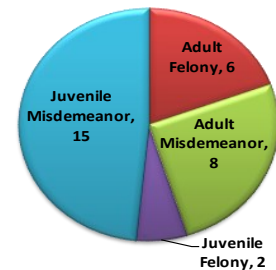
2013 Fire Cause Determination



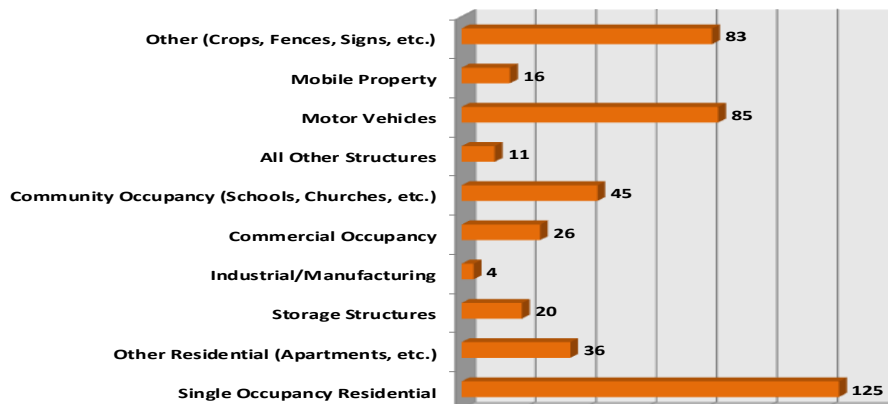
Outside Jurisdiction Assistance



Arrests, Detentions, Citations

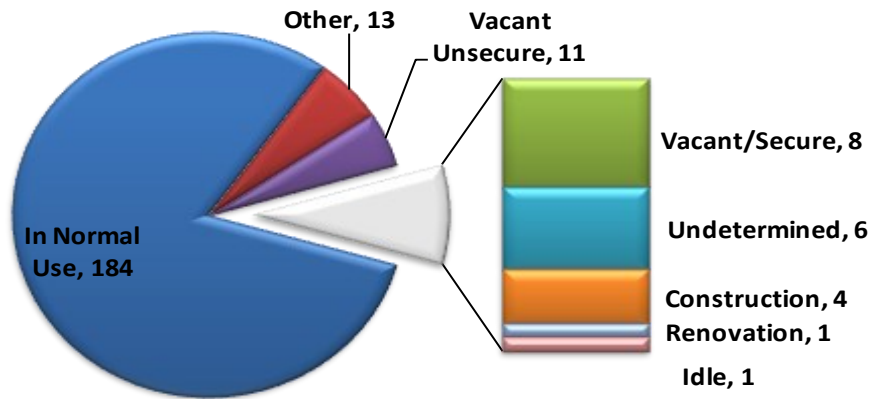


2013 Fire Investigation Property Classifications



Fire Prevention Division

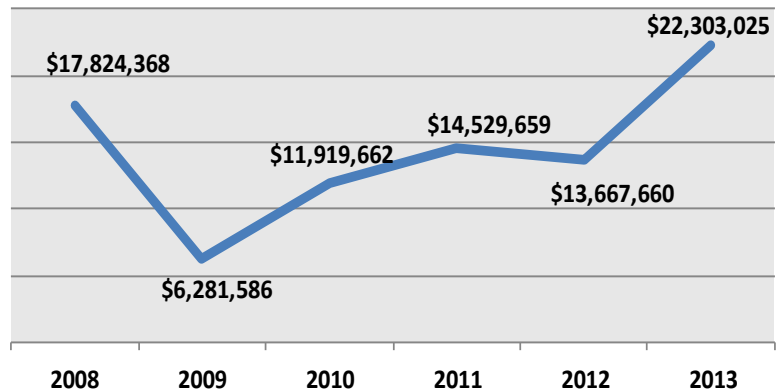
2013 Structure Fires In Use Status



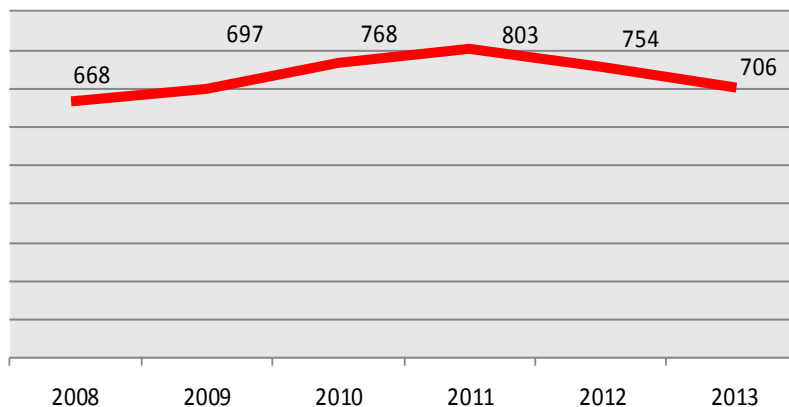
Large Loss Fires

El Paso experienced two large loss fires in 2013. The Coronado Towers fire accounted for an estimated \$6,000,000 loss, and a fire in a multi-use building on Raynor St. estimated at \$2,000,000 loss. An arrest was made in the Coronado Tower fire, while the Raynor St. fire is still under investigation.

Dollar Loss 2008 to 2013

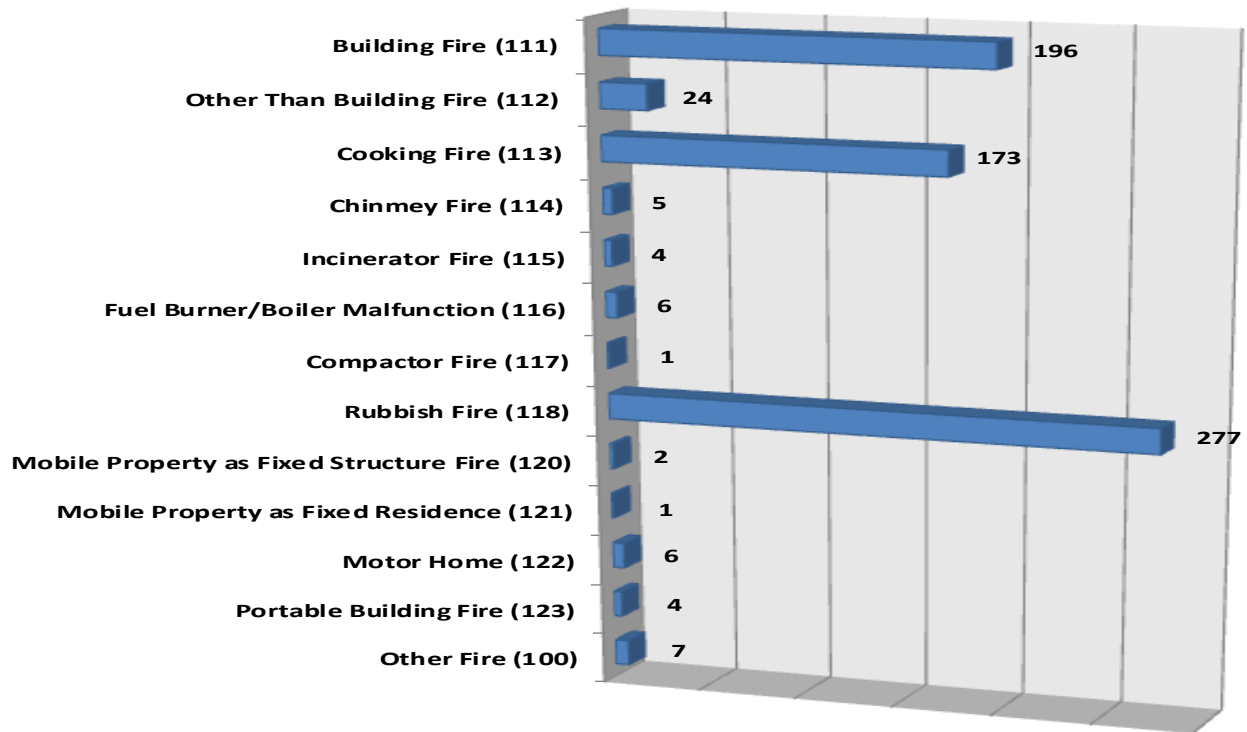


Structure Fires 2008 to 2013

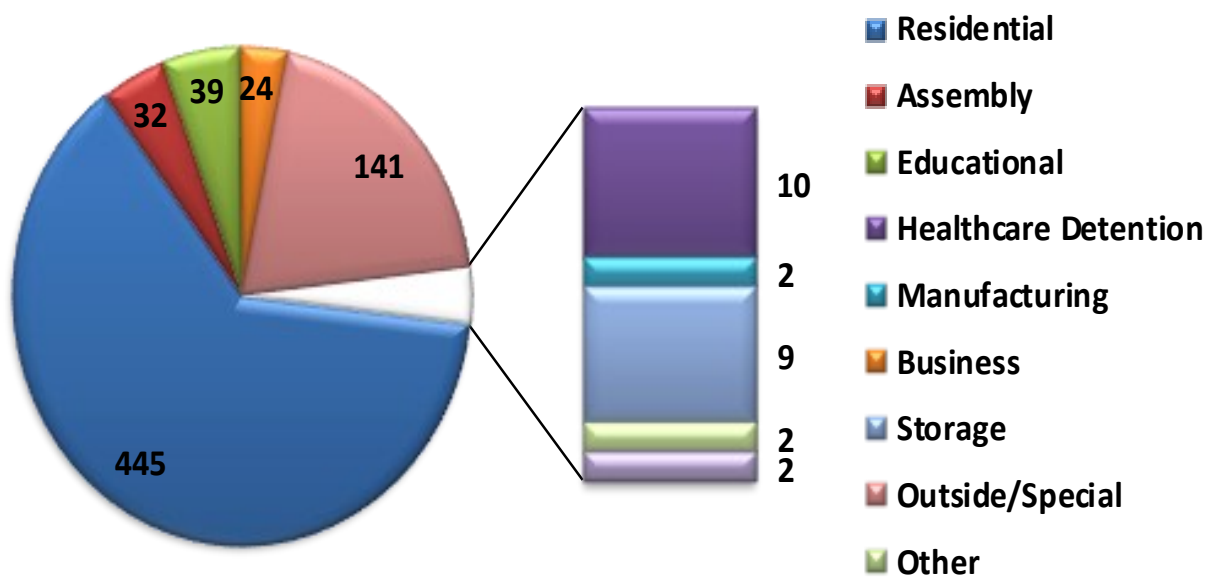


Fire Prevention Division

2013 Structure Fires by Incident Type



2013 Structure Fires by Property Type



Fire Prevention Division

Fire Prevention and Safety Inspections Program

The purpose of the Fire Prevention and Safety Inspection Program is to provide safety inspection services to business occupants so they can continue to safely operate.

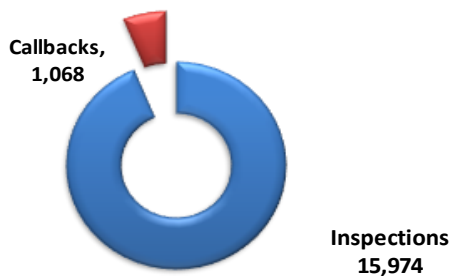


Albert Ruiz
Lieutenant
Fire Prevention
and Life Safety

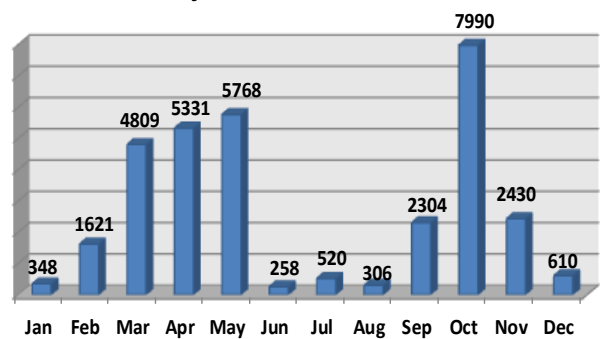
2013

1822 Fire Safety Inspections Completed
1553 Code Compliance Inspections Completed

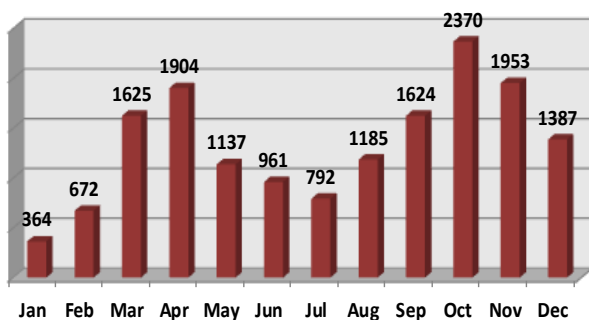
Company Safety Inspections



Fire Safety Presentation Attendance



Fire Safety Inspections



Fire Safety Inspections

Total Inspections	17,058
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Fire Safety Presentations

Total Presentations	332
Total Attendance	32,205

Top 5 Companies

Fire Safety Presentations

L1	21
P18	19
P15	17
P19	16
P27	15



El Paso Fire Department



Capital Assets and Personnel Support Services Division

The purpose of the Capital Assets and Personnel Support Services Division is to provide policy, technical assistance, compliance and quality assurance and logistical services to department employees so they can provide emergency services while ensuring the health, safety and development of department members in service to the community.



Mario D'Agostino
Assistant Chief
Capital Assets
and Personnel Support

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPORT

LOGISTICS

FACILITIES OVERSIGHT

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF)

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Special Operations

Special Operations Support

The purpose of the Special Operations Support Program is to Provide support and technical assistance for specialized responses to the El Paso Fire Department and other local and regional partners so they can safely and effectively perform their mission.



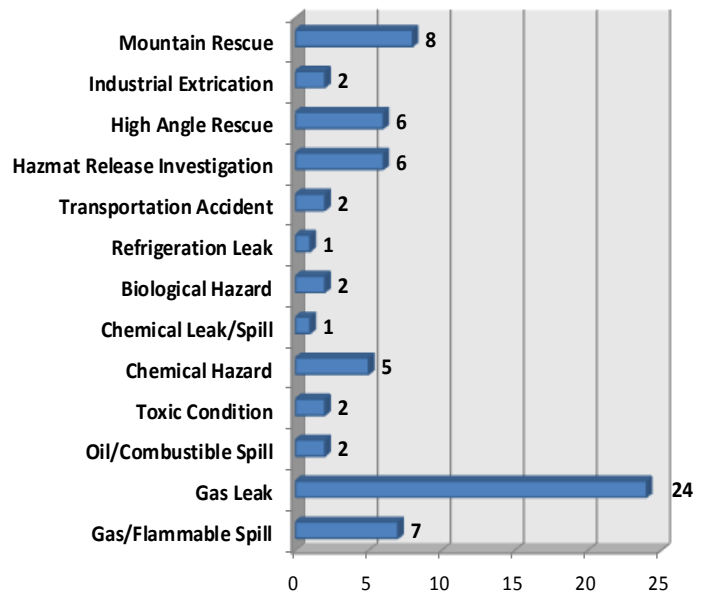
Manuel Rodriguez
Special Operations
Chief

2013

56 Total Training Contact Hours
4,404 Special Operations Incident Consultations
11 New Equipment Evaluations
55 Special Operations Training Sessions
2842 Multi-Agency Training Contact Hours



Special Team Incidents



Major Accomplishments in 2013

8 members of our department certified as 50 hour HAZMAT Specialists in the summer at College Station (TEEX)

Purchased the new HM1, SQ1, and Hazmat Trailer. Both HM1 and SQ1 are Ford 550's. Hazmat Trailer will be used for all Hazmat calls in the city, county, and regional responses.

Special Operations also purchased a new COMSAR Trailer, new Polaris, new COMSAR Uniforms, and new equipment for the Combined Mountain Search and Rescue Team

Other monthly training also occurred in conjunction with other Agencies such as Border Patrol, FBI, Western Refining, and Freeport McMoran

Fire Medical Research

The purpose of the Emergency Medical Support Program is to provide policy, quality assurance and support services to fire department divisions and other emergency responder organizations so they can deliver effective and efficient emergency patient care and achieve positive healthcare outcomes.



Keith Burch
Fire Medical Research

2013

3388 Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Reports and Consultations
951 Responder Immunizations and Tuberculosis Tests
372 Multi-Agency and Hospital Liaison Coordination

2013 Medical Incident Types

Sick Person	12747	28.82%
Traffic Accident MVA	4959	11.21%
Fall Victim	3657	8.27%
Abdominal Pain	2715	6.14%
Breathing Problem	2687	6.07%
Chest Pain	2178	4.92%
Traumatic Injury	1882	4.25%
Convulsions/Seizure	1597	3.61%
Assault	1380	3.12%
Unconscious/Fainting	1311	2.96%
Diabetic Problem	1280	2.89%
Psychiatric Problem	1215	2.75%
Service Call	959	2.17%
Back Pain	752	1.70%
Ingestion/Poisoning	717	1.62%
Headache	557	1.26%
Pregnancy/Childbirth	484	1.09%
Stroke/CVA	432	0.98%
Hemorrhage/Laceration	411	0.93%

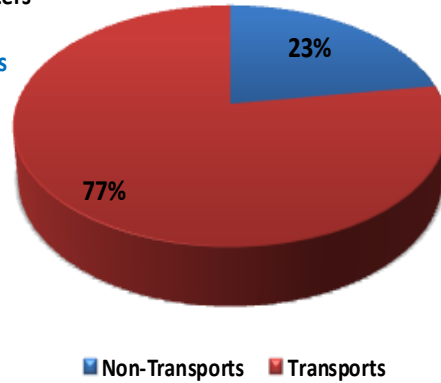
Cardiac Arrest	344	0.78%
Fire / Fire Scene	325	0.73%
Unknown Problem Man Down	304	0.69%
Dead On Scene	271	0.61%
Allergies	183	0.41%
Heart Problems	183	0.41%
Choking	139	0.31%
Stab/Gunshot Wound	132	0.30%
Animal Bite	117	0.26%
Transfer/Interfacility	96	0.22%
Burns	54	0.12%
Heat/Cold Exposure	51	0.12%
CO Poisoning/Hazmat	37	0.08%
MCI (Mass Casualty Incident)	20	0.05%
Eye Problem	19	0.04%
Drowning	16	0.04%
Industrial Accident	13	0.03%
Electrocution	11	0.02%
Total	44235	100.00%

2013 Responses

49176 Total Encounters

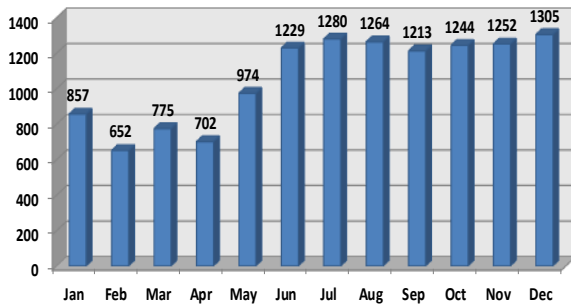
38111 Transports

11065 Nontransports

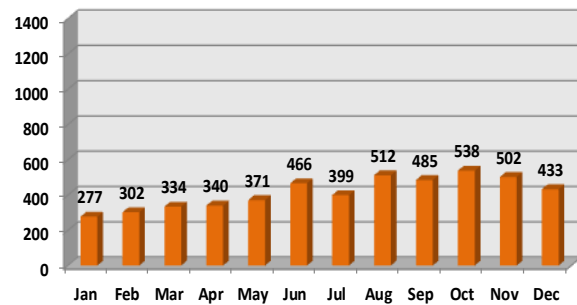


Top 5 Emergencies

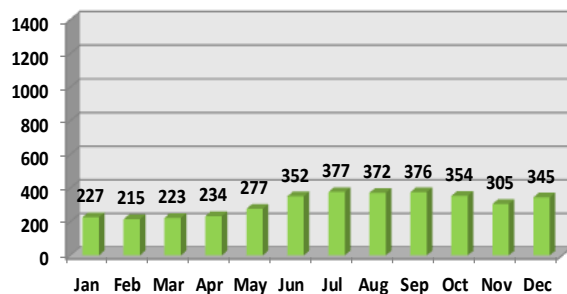
Sick Person



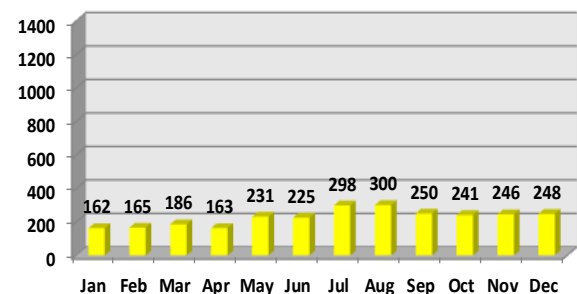
Traffic Accident MVA



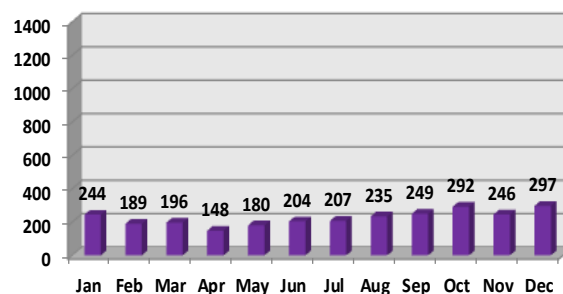
Fall Victim



Abdominal Pain

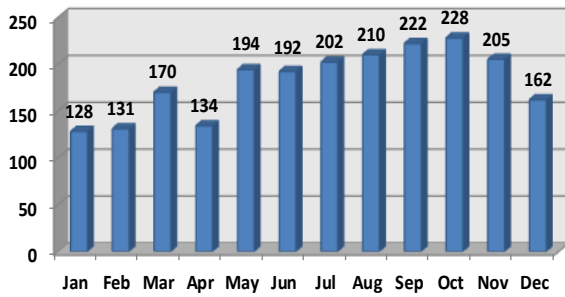


Breathing Problem

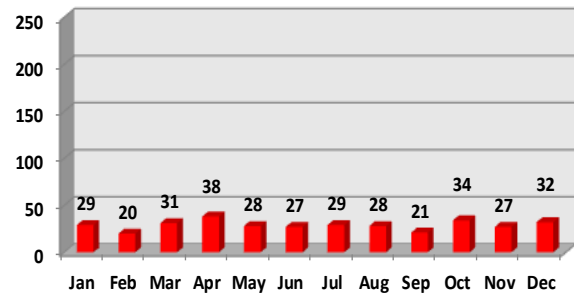


Major Medical Concerns

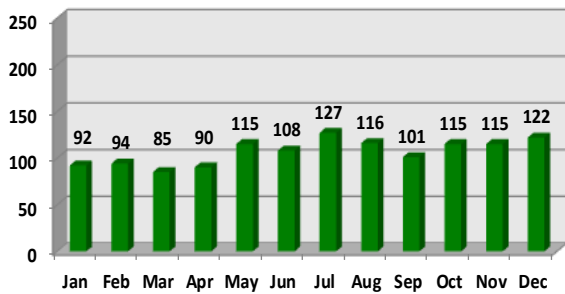
Chest Pain



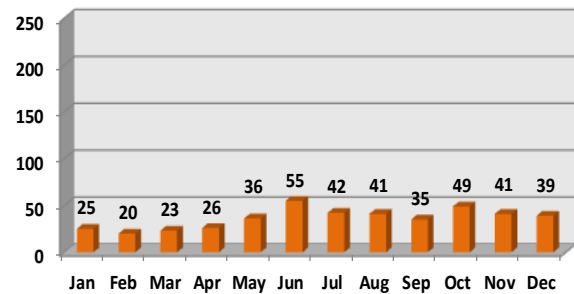
Cardiac Arrest



Diabetic Problem



Stroke/CVA



In April, the Paramedic course was completed by 20 firefighters. Congratulations to:

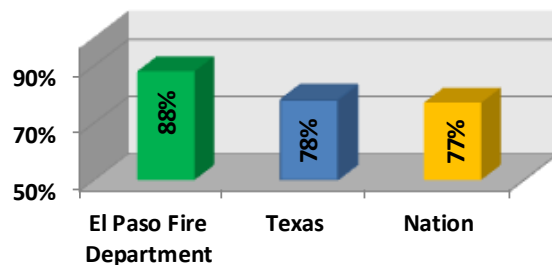
Sergio Cardenas'	Ray Munoz
Tim Shaughnessey	Matthew Hunter
Marc Deuble	Guillermo Ortega
Robert Reyes	Jeffery Park
Samuel Santaguida	Edward Mendoza
Steve Guzman	Humberto Marquez
Enrique Sanchez	Mark Carder
Frank Reyna	Heriberto Baeza
Adriel Ayala	David McWatters
Ben Alarcon	Cesar Aleman

And in August, the Paramedic course was completed by 28 firefighters. Congratulations to:

Matthew DiBenedetto	Edmundo Valencia III
Jesus Garcia	Charles Singleton
Art Cordova	Salvador Lozano
Joseph Mitotes	Joel Rubio
Israel Gines	David Van der Aa
Adrian Parada	Antonio Hernandez
Allan Adame	Felix Oswaldo
Marcelo Morales	Alejandro Hernandez
Cesar Avalos-Acevedos	Timothy Burns
Andrew Renteria	Eric Garcia
Omar Navarro	Steven Deucher
Troy Clark	Randell Jared Knotts
Jesus Hernandez	Jaime Vasquez
Pascual Mendoza	Michael Lara

Congratulations to our graduates for surpassing the Nation and Texas in pass percentage for national paramedic certification and to the training staff for preparing them for excellence!

National Registry Pass Percentage



Logistics



Terry Kebshull
Logistics Chief

Equipment Service, Repair and Procurement Program

The purpose of the Fire Emergency Equipment and Support Program is to provide equipment maintenance, training, and support services to Fire Department Divisions and other public safety organizations so they can safely work in hazardous environments and have reliable equipment to save lives and reduce hazards.

2013

192 Preventative Maintenance Tests/Services Completed
635 Equipment Disposals Completed



Major Purchases

2 Amkus Rescue Tools
For Pumper 17 and Pumper 19



Fire Emergency Apparatus Fleet Program

The purpose of the Fire Emergency Apparatus Fleet Program is to provide fire apparatus, maintenance, support, repair and replacement services to Fire Department Divisions so they can have, in a timely manner, safe, reliable, vehicles to provide around the clock emergency services to residents, businesses and visitors of El Paso.

2013

405 Preventative Maintenance Services Completed
25 Technician Training Hours Provided



Major Purchases

1 Pierce Pumper (P29)
2 Rosenbauer Pumps (P2 and P6)
2 Pierce Aerials (L11 and Q37)
3 Road Rescue Ambulances
(R2, R26 and R37)



Logistics

Fire Logistics Support Program

The purpose of the Fire Logistics Support Program is to provide supply deliveries and equipment replacement services to Fire Department Divisions so they can have the right supplies and equipment at the right time to do the job at hand.

2013

1240 Station and Office Supply Deliveries (disposables) Provided
840 Medical Supply Deliveries (disposables) Provided

Facility Oversight Program

Facility Oversight Program

The purpose of the Facility Oversight Program is to provide construction upgrade and maintenance services to employees and visitors so they can enjoy a safe, functional and accommodating facility.



Luis Flores
Lead Planner

2013

16 Major Repairs Completed (\$3,000 or more per repair)
24 minor Repairs Completed (less than \$3,000 per repair)

2013 Capital Improvements

New Fire Stations

Fire Station 37
Design/Fire Station 5

Restroom Additions

Fire Station 20
Fire Station 19
Fire Station 26

Driveway Replacements

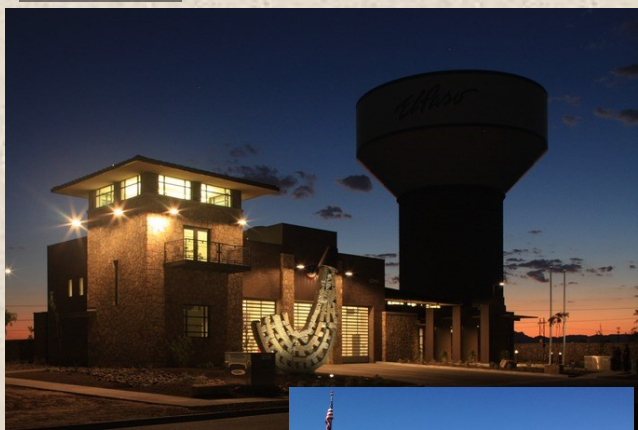
Fire Station 24
Fire Station 33

HVAC Upgrades

Fire Station 18
Fire Station 24
Fire Station 25
Fire Station 28

Fire Station Remodeling

Fire Station 8 Bay Door Expansion
Fire Station 17 Electrical Upgrade



Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Support

The purpose of the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Support Program is to provide planning, preparation, training and regulatory compliance services to the El Paso Fire Department aircraft rescue personnel, airport personnel and other government agencies so they can reduce or mitigate accidents and/or preventable incidents at the El Paso International Airport.

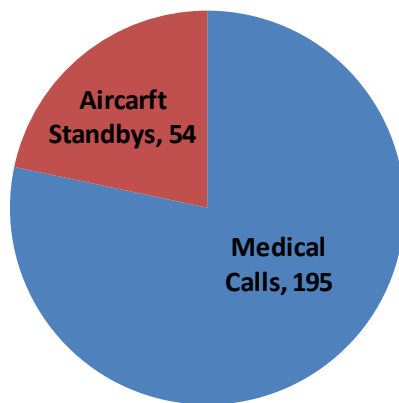


Javier C. Rubio
ARFF Chief

2013

8 Training Sessions Delivered
1 Disaster Response Drill and Exercise Conducted

ARFF Responses



ARFF Responded to 0 Aircraft Fires in 2013



Professional Standards

The purpose of the Professional Standards Office is to oversee and ensure a consistent and fair disciplinary process for all employees and to recognize members for their exceptional professionalism, duty and sacrifice in public service.



Hector Cano
Professional Standards
Chief

2013

338 Awards Presented
174 Disciplinary Actions Administered
110 Citizen Complaints Handled

Civilian Awards



Civilian Citation

Awarded for Meritorious Action
which resulted in the saving of life,
the reduction of injury, or the reduction of loss

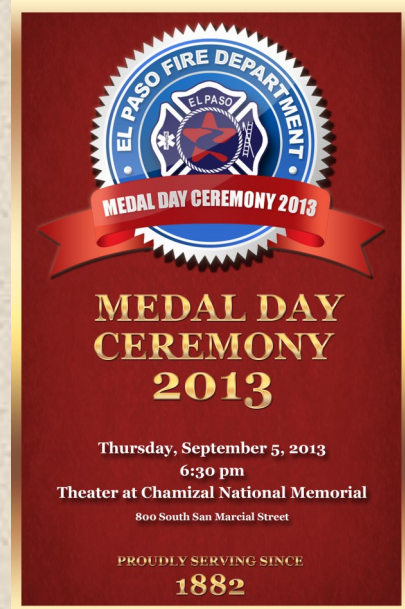
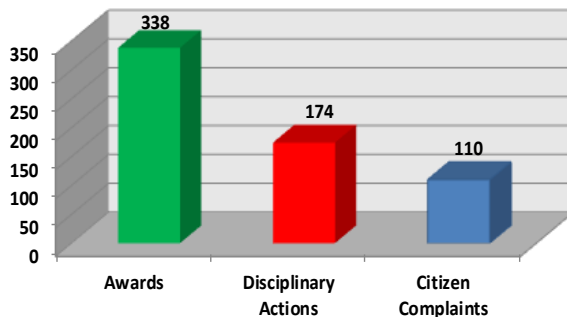
Mario Banuelos	Jose Briseno	Teresa Cano
Jake Casares	Karla De La Riva	Ryan Drewry
Angel Favela	Greg Henderson	Ace Lowerly
Juan Luis Luna Jr.	Ulises Prado-Vasquez	
Hector Rodriguez-Caro	Irving Tovar	
Hugo Uribe		

Certificate of Appreciaion

Awarded to any individual for a deed that is worthy of recognition

Ascarate Pool	Adan Camacho	Joshua Capps
Wilmarie Estrada	Denise Krause	Norma Ledesma
Salvador Rodriguez	Jenette Serna	Marty Widtfeldt

2013 Standards Report



Professional Standards

Award Recipients

Distinguished Service Ribbon

Ronald Brinks Arthur Villareal

Fire Department Commendation Ribbon

Pedro Fabela Dennis Huff Marcela Macias Jose Ortiz III

Lifesaving Award

William Adler Luis Aguirre Jesus Anchondo Joash Arreola John Bailey Enrique Basoco
Hector Cano Hermes Carbajal Jose Cavazos Brian Cole Dona Dorman Roberto Espinoza
Arturo Garza Roberto Guerrero Alejandro Hernandez Marco Hernandez Andrew Holguin
Andres Lopez Eric Marquez Jose Medina Danny Mendoza Jose Munoz Rafael Navarrette
Gil Nevarez Jeffery Omspaugh Eduardo Orozco Frank Perry-Herrera Kyle Phillips
Manuel Ramirez III Gregory Rap Gilbert Sanchez III Boyd Smith III Steven Lujan
Luis Urbina Leonel Vasquez Thomas Woo

Administrative Excellence Ribbon

Michael Aldaco Jesus Anchondo J Beeman Michael Bell Jesse Cannoy Jorge Cortez
Jesus Dorantes Adrian Espinoza Aaron Fierro J C Gallegos James Gunther Joseph Gutierrez
Shawn Hanke John Hilverding Terry Kebschull Sharon Kulvinskis Juan Medina Jose Muela
Sergio Ramirez Jr. Dennis Reglen Rafael Reyes Eduardo Rodela Javier Rubio Albert Ruiz
David Smith Boyd Smith III Paul Thompson Nicholas Torres Jerry Villanueva

Outstanding Training Contribution Ribbon

Juan Balderrama Richard Carpio Jorge Cortez Kevin Dieter Ryan Dubord James Fanning
James Gunther Jose Hernandez Randall Knotts Jeffery Mackall Kevin Mende
Kristian Menendez Antonio Muro James Nicholson Jose Ortiz III Samuel Pena Donald Quinn
Rogelio Razo Rafael Reyes Samuel Rodriguez Jennifer Rubio Daniel Vallejo Edmundo Vega
James Younger

Outstanding Technical Support Ribbon

James Fanning Samuel Pena

Outstanding Fire Officer/Supervisor Ribbon

Carl Manning Albert Ruiz Fred Arroyos Hector Cano Ricardo Flores

National Defense Ribbon

Robert Bartley Daniel Boisselier James Cardenas Rolando Caro Richard Carpio
Maximo Castaneda Paul Deneen Juan Gallo Joel Lara Esteban Licon Miguel Monarez
Carlos Murillo Andres Ortega Jr. Michael Ortiz Humberto Pando Juan Perez Ken Persinger
Enrique Saucedo Wyatt Schmidt Robert Swainston Sean Wilson Rafael Yee David Zeiger

Good Conduct Ribbon

Roger Allen Gilbert Avila Roberto Avila John Bailey Juan Balderrama Enrique Basoco
Jon Beltran Roman Campo Sergio Cardenas Richard Carpio Mario Carrasco Ray Carreon
Jose Cavazos David Chavez Troy Clark Daniel Cordero Daniel Coronado Ashton Crawford
Tommie Cromeens Charles Davis Roberto Diaz Kevin Dieter Dona Dorman Martin Espinoza
Javier Fernandez Todd Fiske Oscar Galarza Justin Garcia Ricardo Garcia Arturo Garza
Hector Gonzales III Andres Gutierrez Fred Hahn Gerardo Heras Arturo Hernandez Jr.
David Hernandez Jose Hernandez Matt Hiatt Christopher Hoggard Andrew Holguin
Dennis Huff Michael Jordan Sr. Richard Juarez Edward Kleinhans Mark Kline Roger Korte
Jaime Labrado Willfred Langfeldt Peter Liehti Ricardo Marin Alejandro Martinez
Francisco Martinez David McWatters Gilberto Medina Kevin Mende Jaime Montes
Edward Montoya Jaime Moreno Christopher Munoz George Nieto Jose Ortiz III Michael Ortiz
Hector Padilla Jose Perez Ken Persinger Alex Portillo Gregory Rap Eduardo Ramirez
Manuel Ramirez III Rogelio Razo Zachary Renteria Rafael Reyes Russell Rinker
Alejandro Rodriguez Isidro Rodriguez Alberto Romero Enrique Saucedo Wyatt Schmidt
Boyd Smith III Michael Solis Fermin Sosa James Starkes David Valdez David Valero
Robert Vasquez Edmundo Vega Richard Walker Thomas Woo

Unit Citation

Rodolfo Becerra Christopher Celaya Ricardo Garcia Hiram Huerta Juan Lopez
Gustavo Tavarez David Valdez



El Paso Fire Department



Technical Services and Professional Development Division

The purpose of the Technical Services and Professional Development Division is to provide emergency communications, planning and training services to the department and the community so they can prevent, prepare, respond and recover from disasters and emergencies.



Calvin Shanks
Assistant Chief
Technical Services and
Professional Development

911 COMMUNICATIONS

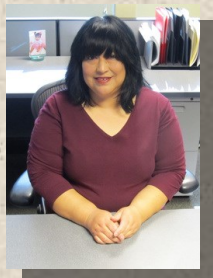
HEALTH AND SAFETY

OPERATIONS RESEARCH

TRAINING

911 Communications

The purpose of the 911 Emergency Communications program is to provide emergency and non-emergency communications and dispatch services to the public and emergency responders so they can experience timely, accurate and proper emergency response.



Cynthia Beltran
911 Communications
Acting Manager

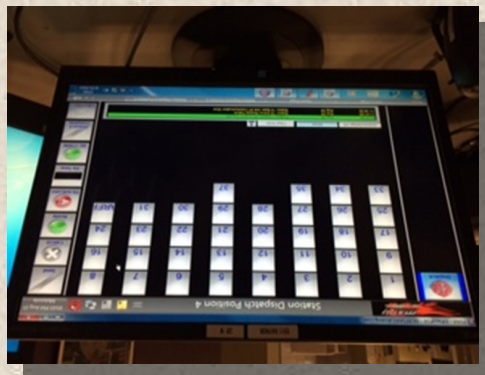
2013

45,000 Medical Call Dispatch Notifications Provided
17,000 Fire Call Dispatch Notifications Provided
452,440 Police Call Dispatch Notifications Provided



On April 1, 2013, the P25 Digital Smart zone Trunked 800 MHz radio system from Motorola was placed in service. The radio system is licensed under a block of 15-800 MHz Trunked Channels; however, the capacity of the system allows licensing of 700 MHz channels for expansion and growth. All Communications personnel received training on the new system in March 2013 prior to going live.

A fire station alerting system was purchased along with the P25 radio project and has been installed in each fire station along with corresponding software/hardware at the communications center in order to communicate dispatches to the units in the stations. Fire Dispatchers received additional training on the FSA system.



2013 Quality Assurance

In 2013, the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch ED-Q personnel reviewed a quantity of calls that were processed using EMD and EFD NAED protocols.

Our Communications Center continues to show improvement with the calls processed using Pro-QA. We have been on the cusp of achieving our ACE Accreditation goals on multiple occasions. Our application for ACE Accreditation should be forthcoming.

Medical Calls processed using Pro-QA = 52,368

Fire Calls processed using Pro-QA = 9,697

Calls reviewed by the QA / QI = 2,108 (EMD) and 1,300 (EFD) = 3,408

Calls completed correctly = 97.31 % or 2,076 calls (EMD)

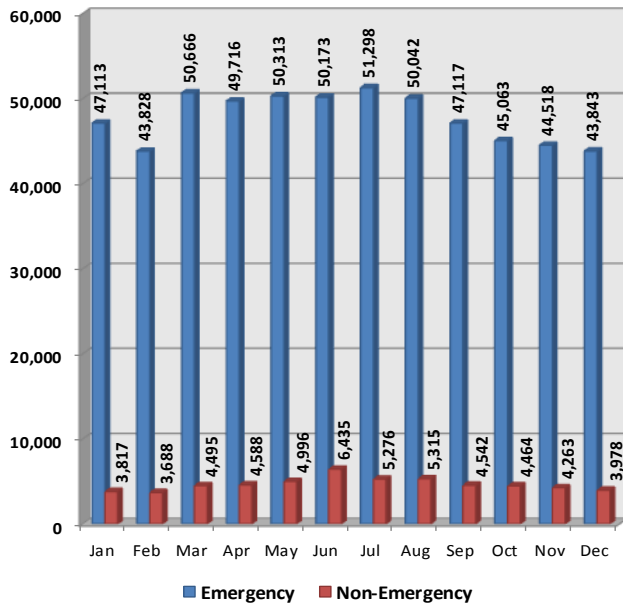
Calls completed correctly = 95.85 % or 1,270 calls (EFD)

Customer Service = 99.68 % or 2,101 calls (EMD)

Customer Service = 99.48 % or 1,293 calls (EFD)

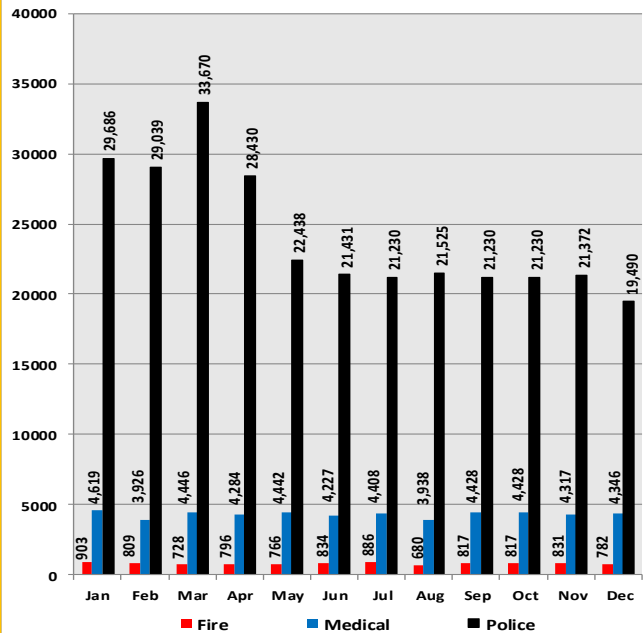
911 Communications

Monthly Call Volume



Total Calls: 573,569 Emergency 55,857 Non-Emergency

Monthly Dispatched Calls



Total Dispatches Police 290,771 EMS 51,809 Fire 9,649

311 Communications

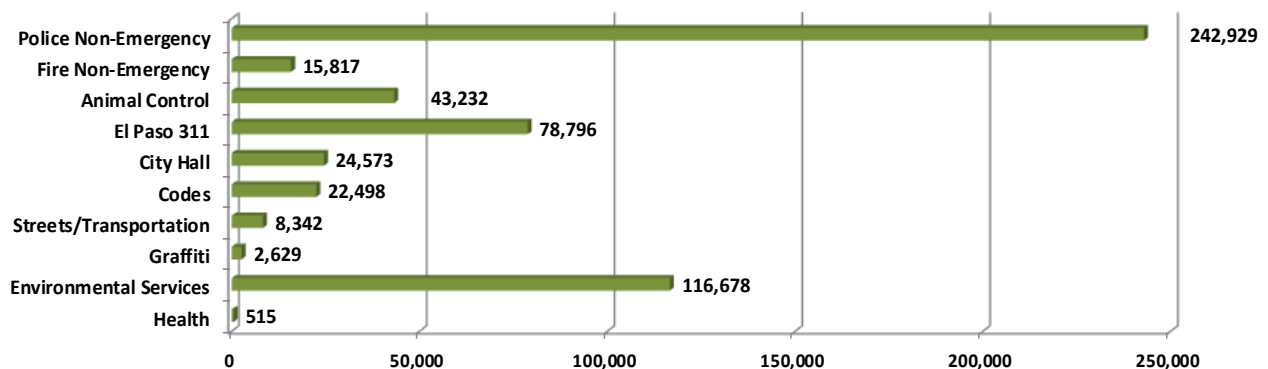


Information Call Handling

The 311 Call Center established in the Communications Center has been an essential element of the call-taking process. Callers needing to simply ask questions or give information to Police or Fire are diverted from the Emergency call process. The information handled applies to almost every department in the city.

Call Volume By Department

311 Call Center



Health and Safety

The purpose of the Health and Safety Program is to provide work place safety, personnel wellness and fitness assistance services to El Paso Fire Department employees so they can have a safe and healthful working environment and improved physical and behavioral health.

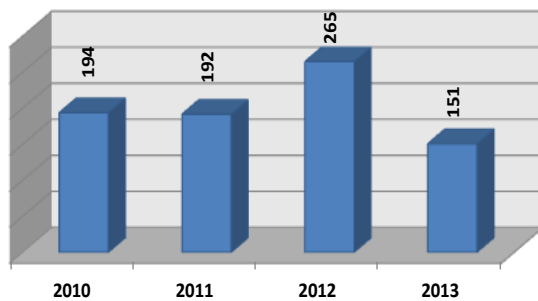


Arturo Provencio
Health and Safety Chief

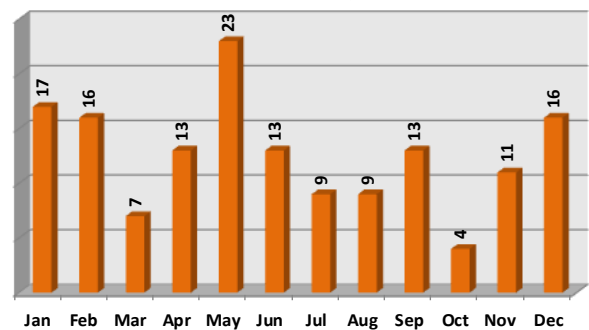
2013

39 Fire Facility Safety Inspections Completed
47 Accident Investigations Reports Completed
198 Injury Investigation Reports Completed
898 Uniformed Employees given Health & Wellness Services

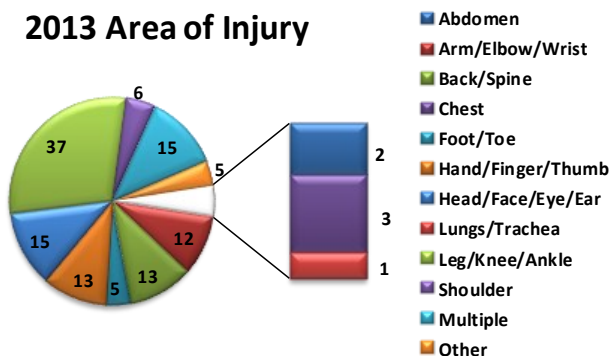
Total Injuries by Year



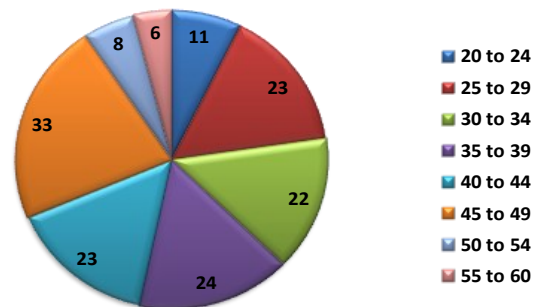
2013 Injuries by Month



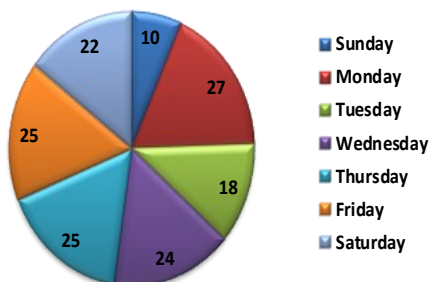
2013 Area of Injury



2013 Age Group of Injured

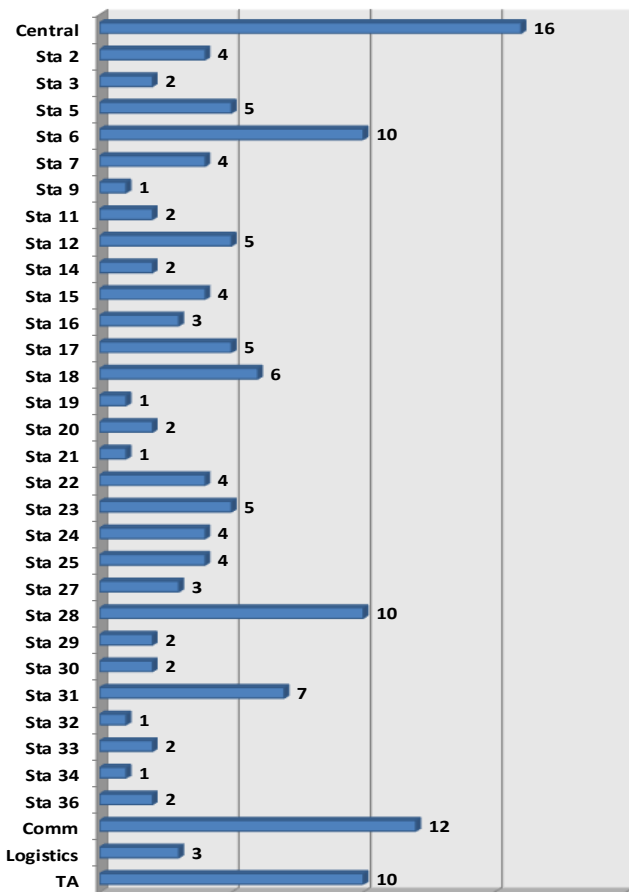


2013 Injuries by Day of Week



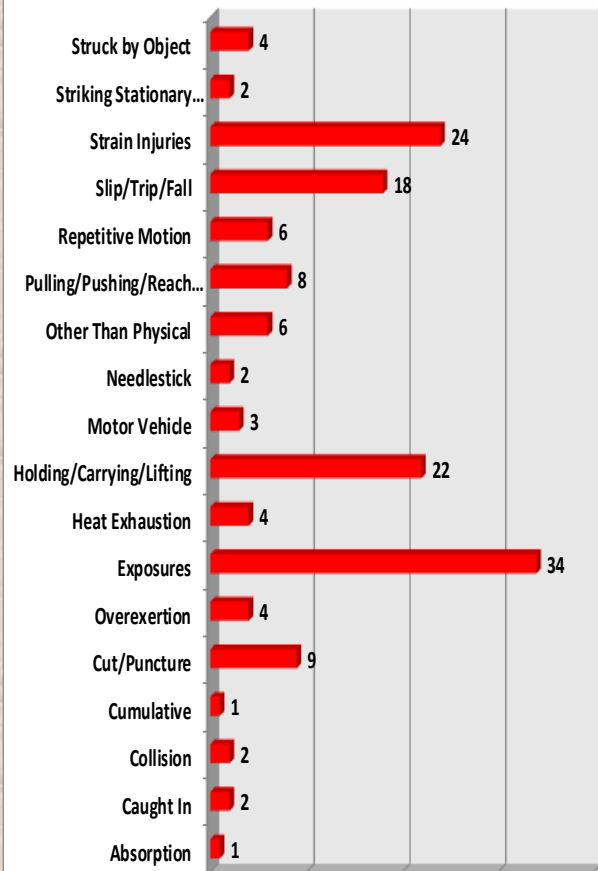
Health and Safety

2013 Assignment of Injured



Sta 4, Sta 8, Sta 10, Sta 13 and Sta 26 had no reported injuries in 2013

2013 Agency of Injury



In 2013, the Health and Safety Division implemented the Wellness and Fitness Initiative (WFI). The intention of the WFI is that its implementation be a positive individualized program that is non-punitive. Our wellness program is intended to strengthen uniformed personnel so that their mental, physical, and emotional capabilities are resilient enough to withstand the stresses and strains of life and the workplace.

The Wellness and Fitness Initiative consists of 5 components:

1. Medical Examinations—baseline physicals by the Healthcare provider
2. Fitness Maintenance—Fire Performance Evaluations and Assessments
3. Rehabilitation—Fitness training, Physical and Occupational Therapy
4. Behavioral Health—Stress Management Program to include Peer Support counselors and a Mental Health Professional
5. Data Collection and Reporting

The goal is to develop an overall Wellness/Fitness system with a positive, rehabilitating, and educational focus on our employees. The purpose of the WFI is to improve the health, fitness, and safety of all EPFD employees.

Operations Research

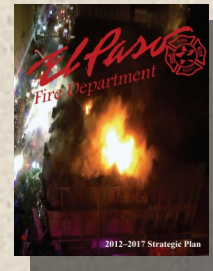
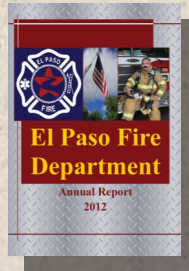
The purpose of the Operational Research Program is to provide analysis, records management and decision support services to the El Paso Fire Department so they can have timely, accurate and useful information to make service level decisions and report on operations performance to the public.



Carlos Piedra
Operations Research Chief

2013

15,000 Reports (standard, ad hoc, maps) Delivered
1,200 Incident Report Audits Completed



2013 Standards of Cover

The Operations Research Division completed the 2013 Community Risk Analysis and Standards of Cover which provides information of the El Paso Fire Department such as community response history, community service expectations and goals, community risk assessment, and performance measurements and analysis. This document is updated annually to meet the requirements of the CFAI. Lt. Dennis Reglen was an essential part of the process, coordinating with the Training Academy, Communications, Operations, and Fire Medical Research to ensure these documents were complete and accurate.

2012 Annual Report

Operations Research coordinated with all divisions and completed the 2012 Annual Report. Achievements for the year are celebrated along with highlighted statistics and facts for 2012.



University of Texas at El Paso Research Assistance

The assistance of the Operations Research division was a critical part of the research UTEP was conducting on the creation and implementation of a fall prevention program. The information provided was able to help pinpoint those areas of the city that would best benefit from the program, as well as helping identify target age groups.



Lt. Lalo Rodela



Lt. Dennis Reglen

2013 Strategic Business Plan Review

Operations Research officers worked diligently to present all the divisions and programs with current, accurate data for performance measures and budget proposals.



Lt. Gary Cadd



Lt. Tom Quinn

Professional Development Training Program

The purpose of the Professional Development and Training Program is to provide education, training, mentoring and certification services to fire department personnel, regional agencies and the public so they can have the knowledge, skills and abilities to achieve the department's strategic and operational results and promote a safe and hazard resilient community.



Jorge Cortez
Training Chief

2013

51,301 Medical & Fire Continuing Education Contact Hours Provided
43,962 Recruit Class Contact Hours Delivered
219 El Paso Community College Facilitation Hours Provided

Major Accomplishments

Recruit Classes

The Training Academy Graduated two Recruit Classes in 2013

Class 84 with 47 graduates in April
Class 85 with 10 graduates in August



Blue Card

The Academy completed Blue Card IC Certification of all remaining Chief Officers and Captains, and began training Lieutenants to the current Blue Card based Incident Command Procedures adopted by the department through the initiation of the EPFD Functions of Command Class. This class was designed to provide Blue Card based Incident Command training to junior officers and acting officers, whom would otherwise be ineligible for Blue Card Certification.

Shattered Dreams

Training Academy personnel coordinated with Border RAC and other agencies to provide DWI prevention and awareness training to local high school students.

March	Burgess HS
September	Coronado HS



On-Line Courses

El Paso Fire Department became the first department to obtain status as an online training facility through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. The following online classes were offered in 2013:

April	Driver/Operator
July	Instructor I
October	Instructor II

The Training Academy is now developing the on-line curriculum for Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II to be given in 2014.



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Capital Improvements

Station 37 was opened on August 17, 2013. It is located at 12950 R.C. Poe Rd., at the intersection of Tierra Aurora Dr. and R.C. Poe Rd. Quint 37 and Rescue 37 will now respond to incidents in the far east.



Station 5 will be located on Gateway East and Revere Rd. Anticipated completion will be in October of 2014. The station will house the following:

- Battalion 3
- Pumper 5
- Pumper 13
- Ladder 5
- Rescue 5
- Hazmat 1
- Squad 1





El Paso Fire Department



New Fire Chief Samuel Peña

EL PASO'S NEW FIRE CHIEF



Members of the fire training academy and El Paso firefighters, top, were on hand Thursday as El Paso's new fire chief, Samuel Peña, was announced by City Manager Joyce Wilson at the current City Hall. Peña, shown in his uniform at left, has been with the El Paso Fire Department for 17 years. Before joining the department, he served four years in the Air Force. The University of Texas at El Paso and Austin High School graduate will officially take over on Sunday.

PHOTOS BY
RIGUN R. RAMIREZ
EL PASO TIMES



VANESSA MONSISVAIS / EL PASO TIMES

El Paso Fire Chief Sam Peña grew up in El Paso and was promoted from within the Fire Department.

Fire chief wants to make good department better

By Daniel Borunda
EL PASO TIMES

El Paso's new fire chief wants to make sure the Fire Department keeps up with the city's growth, reaches out to neighboring volunteer departments and recruits more female firefighters.

Sam Peña, 43, recently discussed leading the department

that traces its history to 1882.

Peña was named chief earlier this month and officially took over his new job last week. He replaces former Fire Chief Otto Drozd III, who left in November to take a job in Florida.

"When I came into this position, I found out the depart-

Please see **Chief** 6B

Chief

Continued from 1B

ment is actually in good shape," Peña said. "It's not in disarray. The challenge to me now is to take a good department and moving it forward and creating a better department."

El Paso's fire chief had always been picked from inside the department until 2009 with the selection of Drozd, who came to El Paso from the Miami suburb of Hialeah.

Drozd had more than 20 years of experience, including eight years as a fire chief. He had a master's degree in management, a bachelor's in public management and associate degrees in business and fire science.

Joe Tellez, president of the El Paso Association of Firefighters, said the selection of Peña was applauded by many firefighters because the new chief was promoted from within the department.

"There was a good pool of candidates, and the best thing about it — it was a local candidate," Tellez said. "They promoted from within. Sam is a young charismatic guy, and he has his eyes on the future."

Tellez said some of the challenges that Peña will face are budgetary limitations while making sure the department keeps up with a growing city.

Peña has been with the Fire Department for more than 17 years. He started as a firefighter and rose through the ranks to assistant chief. He had been the training chief in charge of the fire academy, a media spokesman and a paramedic, and had the title of advanced medical coordinator.

City Manager Joyce Wilson had said that Peña's experience in both medical and firefighting fields set him apart from the six other finalists. The candidates were interviewed by several panels in the selection process.

As chief, Peña will be paid \$55,000 a year.

Peña was born in Los Angeles. He was about 3 years old when his parents, Ricardo and Leticia Peña, moved to El Paso. His father was in the Army and had been assigned to Fort Bliss. Peña graduated from Austin High School in 1987.

Peña has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Texas at El Paso and served four years as an air control specialist with the U.S. Air Force. Having a wife and a

young son, Peña said, he decided to leave the Air Force and return to El Paso in 1994. They have two sons and a grandson.

"If I told you that I always wanted to be a firefighter, I would not be being truthful with you," Peña said before laughing.

"The truth is when I was getting out of the Air Force, I needed to find a job. So I came and I applied with the city, and the Fire Department was the first city department to call. Seventeen and a half years later, it's worked out great."

Peña now oversees a department that has 855 uniformed employees, has more than 70,000 emergency calls a year and has a top insurance rating. Peña said the department is already working to keep up with growth. A 50-member class is set to graduate from the training academy next month. The newest station, Fire Station No. 37, is scheduled to open in August on Edgemore Boulevard at RC Poe Road near El Dorado High School.

Peña said he also wants to help improve fire protection by working with neighboring fire departments.

"We have several volunteer fire departments in the county that surround the city of El Paso, and we haven't taken advantage of that opportunity there in building those relationships," Peña said.

Peña said that another goal is the recruitment of more female firefighters. The department has 15 female firefighters.

"We have Fort Bliss available, and that's a huge demographic that we haven't really targeted," Peña said. "The goal is to get a larger number of women applying to the recruit class."

Peña might not have always wanted to be a firefighter, but El Paso's new fire chief found that firefighting is a rewarding profession.

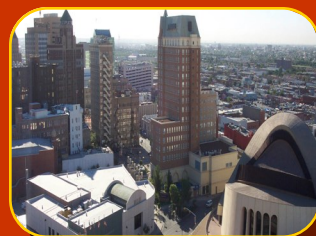
"This is one of the few jobs where you really get to make an impact on a daily basis in the betterment of people's lives," Peña said. "You make the calls, you make the runs. You get summoned because somebody needs assistance."

"The feeling is almost indescribable," he said. "It's a great feeling and satisfaction to be able to serve in that capacity to make a difference in people's lives. Very few times do you go home from a shift and not feel that you've accomplished something."

Daniel Borunda may be



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Station 37

FACES+PLACES

El Paso fire station ribbon cutting

Members of the El Paso Fire Department had a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug. 17 for Fire Station No. 37, its newest station on the far East Side. Fire Chief Sam Pena addressed the crowd.



David Medina, left, Deshery Medina, Melody Medina, Faith Medina and Hilda Medina.



PHOTOS BY VICTOR CALZADA — EL PASO TIMES
David Hernandez, left, Rick Cereon and Martin Dominguez.



Merlo D'agostino, left, Samuel Rodriguez, Sam Pena and David Almaraz.



Mardo Flores, left, Josh Messer and Brian Duffy.



John and Jackie Concha and Mayor Oscar Leeser.

NEW FIRE STATION

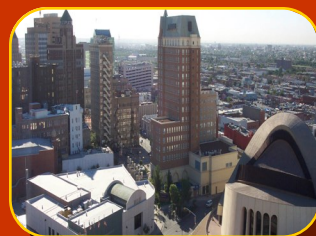


RUDY GUTIERREZ — EL PASO TIMES

El Paso's newest fire house, Station 37 at 12950 RC Poe in far East El Paso, began operations July 21. It features a sculpture in front depicting water spilling out of a bucket by artist Ilan Averbuch. It is part of the city's public art projects. The 8,782-square-foot facility will be officially inaugurated Aug. 17. SEE MORE PHOTOS AT ELPASOTIMES.COM



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Remembering 9/11



REMEMBERING DAY OF TERROR

EX-NYPD DETECTIVE TELLS OF 9/11 DUTY

Attacks unified US: 'I am grateful everybody in this country is so strong,' she says
Humble: Calls Flight 93 plane passengers who prevented attack on Capitol the real heroes

Members of the El Paso Fire Department honor guard stand at attention during the presentation of the memorial wreath during the Remembering September 11th 9-11 Memorial 2013, held Wednesday at Fire Station 11 in Downtown El Paso.

By Adriana M. Chávez
achavez@elpasotimes.com
@AChavezEPTimes on Twitter

Retired New York City police Detective Victoria d'Angelo did not hold any punches back — she was blunt, straightforward and every bit the tough cop she was when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

She remembers everything about that day and its aftermath.

She remembers the fires that burned at ground zero for 99 days.

She remembers being covered in a dust made up of concrete, marble, glass, paper and human remains.

And most of all, she remembers the scores of people who

traveled from all over the world to help the people of New York, and she remembers those who prayed for and sent letters of support to police and firefighters.

"You got us through," said d'Angelo, the guest speaker at Wednesday's 9/11 Memorial at Fire Station No. 11 in Downtown El Paso.

"I am grateful everybody in this country is so strong. I am so proud that you didn't give up," she said.

Dozens of El Paso-area residents, law enforcement representatives and local government officials attended Wednesday's event, which culminated in the ringing of a memorial fire bell and a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace."

DUTY » PAGES



Former New York Police Department Detective Victoria d'Angelo tells the audience she is proud Americans didn't give up.

Duty

FROM PAGE 1

ing Grace."

Wednesday's event was one of several in the area in memory of those who died in the al-Qaida-led terrorist attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

During d'Angelo's speech, she recounted how she heard about the World Trade Center attacks as she was preparing to attend an emergency training session in the Bronx. She was a narcotics detective.

She said after the first plane crashed into the first tower, she thought it was a horrible accident. But after the second plane crashed 17 minutes later, she knew something was wrong.

"It was much more sinister," said d'Angelo, who lives in Houston. "At that moment, you knew things were never going to be the same."

She said after hearing

about the planes crashing into the twin towers, she kissed her daughter and grandson as she usually did every morning, packed enough belongings to last her two days and left her home on Long Island.

In the days that followed, d'Angelo and fellow officers searched through buildings looking for survivors. After two days the dark realization sunk in that there were no survivors to be found.

For only the second time in the 12 years after the attacks, d'Angelo tearfully retold the story of how she and her partners found the remains of two people huddled underneath a desk.

She also described the scene at a landfill on Staten Island where the debris from ground zero was taken. She and several other officers stood alongside conveyor belts, sorting through each piece of rubble for anything of value, like a piece of clothing or a personal item, that could be returned to the families of those who died in the attacks.



Representatives of the El Paso police and fire departments march to present the U.S. colors during a 9/11 ceremony at Fire Station 11 in Downtown El Paso.

In all the attacks, about 3,000 people perished.

D'Angelo said she and the other emergency workers are uncomfortable with being called heroes.

She prefers "patriots," and reserves the term "hero" for those such as the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, which

crashed into a Pennsylvania field after passengers thwarted at attempt by four hijackers to fly to Washington, D.C., presumably to crash into the U.S. Capitol.

"They are the first heroes of 9/11," d'Angelo said.

Adriana M. Chávez may be reached at 546-6117.



El Paso police and fire department representatives unroll a scroll with the names of the victims of the terror attacks during a remembrance Wednesday at Fire Station 11.





El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Department In The News

HELP FOR HEART PATIENTS



MARK LAMBIE / EL PASO TIMES

DOWNTOWN FIRE



RUBEN R. RAMIREZ / EL PASO TIMES

Firefighters battle a fire that filled several blocks of Downtown with smoke Thursday night. The blaze consumed a building, erected in the 1880s, that was once the First National Bank Building and where gunfighter John Wesley Hardin had his law office.

1880s 'John Hardin' building burns

By Daniel Borunda
EL PASO TIMES

TODAY AT
elpasotimes.com

Watch video, see more photos of the fire.

A three-alarm fire raged for more than four hours on Thursday night, gutting one of the oldest buildings in Downtown El Paso.

Flames shot out from the top of the structure, as little by little parts of the building were consumed. While more than 110 firefighters

poured streams of water from the ground and aerial ladders. The building at 100 E. San Antonio had been a landmark in the

heart of El Paso since the 1880s. It had once been the First National Bank and the law offices of famed gunfighter John Wesley Hardin.

No injuries were reported. Firefighters fought the blaze, which started about 630 p.m.

Rosa Azul Juarez hugged family members while she watched the building that housed her dress boutique burn. The shop was closed

when the fire started. "This is a family business. It is how I make a living. How I pay rent and put food on the table. I've worked too long and hard for it to end like this," said Juarez, who owned Imperio Real, a 4-year-old store selling quinceañera and bridal gowns.

Please see **Fire 7A**

Fire

Continued from 1A

The building also housed Rodela's Tax Service for 20 years and another business, though the upper floors were mostly empty.

Elin Rodela, owner of the tax business, was calm as firefighters fought flames and thick smoke spread, fueled by an evening breeze.

Rodela said that the manager of the building wouldn't make repairs and that he often had to do them himself. He planned to move his family-owned business next door. "I think things happen for a reason. I know we will continue to grow and grow stronger," Rodela said.

A Fire Department spokesman said the cause of the fire had not been determined. It was suspected that the fire began on the ground floor.

The building is at the intersection of East San Antonio and El Paso streets across from the Camino Real Hotel.

"This is a travesty," city Rep. Steve Ortega said while watching the fire. "This is one of the most historic buildings in El Paso."

"It is the John Wesley Hardin building." Ortega said the fire was part of a larger problem, what he called a "culture of disinvestment" in which building owners allow properties to fall in disrepair, lack pride in Downtown and then complain that



FERNIE CASTILLO / EL PASO TIMES

Firefighters battle a fire that consumed a building built in the 1880s. It was once the First National Bank Building and also where gunfighter John Wesley Hardin had his law office. Smoke from the fire filled the streets of Downtown while the building, across from the Camino Real Hotel, released smoke from the hours.

government efforts to combat such conditions are anti-business.

"Quite frankly, we have some wealthy building owners who could give a crap about their buildings," Ortega said.

The structure, built in the Italianate style, was constructed by Joshua and Jefferson Reynolds in 1882 and 1883 as

part of the real estate boom that took place after the arrival of the railroad, according to the city's website.

First National Bank thrived for more than 50 years, but closed its doors in 1983 during the Great Depression.

The building, which had gone through many renovations, is now owned by River

Oaks Properties, one of El Paso's largest retail property developers with a multimillion-dollar property portfolio. The company is run by Gerald "Jerry" Rubin, who was at the scene of the fire but walked away when approached by the news media.

Late Thursday night, the old building kept burning as fire-

fighters pulled away for safety reasons.

George de la Torre, a Fire Department spokesman, said the building, which had stood for 130 years, was a total loss.

Daniel Borunda may be reached at dborunda@elpasotimes.com. 546-0102.



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Department In The News

MDA DRIVE



RUBEN R. RAMIREZ / EL PASO TIMES

El Paso Fire Department Capt. James Younger and Muscular Dystrophy Association Ambassador Phoenix Payan, 6, pose Thursday with the brass boot for the announcement of the 2013 El Paso Firefighter/MDA Fill the Boot Campaign. Firefighters will again work the street corners around El Paso collecting money for MDA. The fundraising event will conclude Memorial Day. The goal for El Paso firefighters this year is to raise \$100,000, and the first \$5,000 donation comes from El Paso Electric Co.

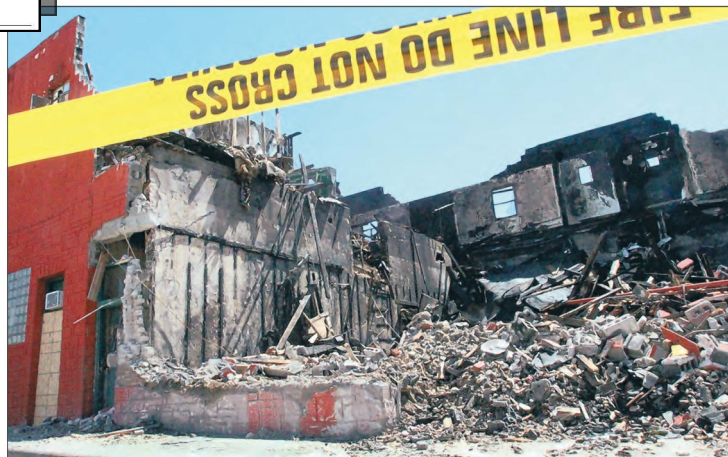
UPPER VALLEY BLAZE



RUBEN R. RAMIREZ / EL PASO TIMES

More than 70 El Paso firefighters plus firefighters from New Mexico agencies fight a wind-spread brush fire Monday in the Upper Valley. The blaze, which was declared a four-alarm fire so that additional crews could be deployed, was burning along the Rio Grande near Rosinante Road. Additional firefighters were needed because the fire had spread to different locations after embers were carried by 30 mph winds. El Paso Fire Department spokesman George De La Torre said that firefighters were trying to contain the flames and let the fire burn itself out. Two El Paso firefighters were taken to a hospital for treatment of possible heat exhaustion. See more photos and video at elpasotimes.com.

TOTAL LOSS FROM FIRE



RUDY GUTIERREZ / EL PASO TIMES

The remains of an apartment building at Pershing and Raynor are cordoned off with caution tape Monday following a fire on Friday. The building has been released by the El Paso Fire Department to a security company, said George De La Torre, public affairs coordinator for the El Paso Fire Department. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The fire caused an estimated \$200,000 in damage to the building, which was declared a total loss. Four people were treated for smoke inhalation and two of them were transported to University Medical Center. Six people were displaced from their homes.



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Department In The News

National EMS Week at Sierra

Photos by Vanessa Monsivais
EL PASO TIMES

Sierra Providence Health Network celebrated National EMS Week with "A Day at the Beach" themed luncheons throughout last week at various sites, including one Thursday at Sierra Providence East Medical Center, 3280 Joe Battle.



Agustin Guerrero, left, Adrian Sandoval, Frank Gonzalez, Rick Marin and Alex Rodriguez.



o, left, and Joseph Velez.



Patrick Wright.



Leslie Roberts, left, Margaret Castañeda, Ashley Tantimonaco and Julie Perez.



Manny Rodriguez, left, and Ed Mercer.

FIREFIGHTERS TO RETIRE



VANESSA MONSIVAIS / EL PASO TIMES

Three assistant chiefs with the El Paso Fire Department were recognized Thursday at a luncheon at department headquarters in Downtown El Paso. Assistant Chiefs Michael Calderazzo, not pictured, Carlos Carmona, right, and Manuel Chavira, left, are retiring in June. Calderazzo has been with the department for 21 years and Carmona for 30 years. Chavira will mark 31 years with the department on June 8, the official day of his retirement.

84TH FIREFIGHTING CLASS



GEORGE DE LA TORRE / SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Fifty firefighters, including 13 military veterans, graduated Saturday from the El Paso Fire Department's training academy. The graduation ceremony took place at 10 a.m. at the El Paso Community College Administrative Services Center at 9050 Viscount. Fire Department officials said the 50 graduates passed a rigorous training academy, which started with 67 recruits. It is the academy's 84th graduating class.



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Department In The News

TRANSPORTATION

OFF TO A ROUGH START

Vehicle fire slams brakes on westbound I-10 traffic during Monday morning rush-hour commute; no injuries reported

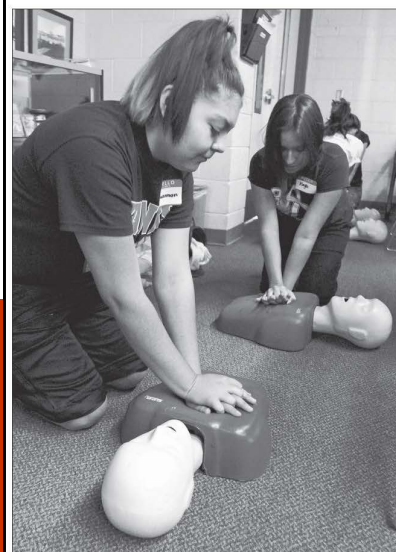


Online: For more images, visit www.elpasotimes.com/traffic.

A firefighter battles a car fire Monday morning on Interstate 10 West at Airway Boulevard. The blaze caused a traffic backup during the morning rush hour. No injuries were reported.

MARK LAMBE — EL PASO TIMES

CPR TRAINING



RUDY GUTIERREZ — EL PASO TIMES

Rhiannon Muñoz, foreground, and Kayla Mendoza practice chest compressions Wednesday on the floor of a classroom at the El Paso Fire Department Training Academy. They are among 20 teens ages 13 to 17 who are taking part in a three-day Summer Youth Camp. They learned CPR, how defibrillators work, wore full fire gear, connected fire hoses and were shown a rappelling demonstration, said George De La Torre, El Paso Fire Department spokesman. The camp ends today with a "water wars" activity. The department plans to organize an expanded camp next year, De La Torre said.

ENVIRONMENT

HAZ-MAT INCIDENT

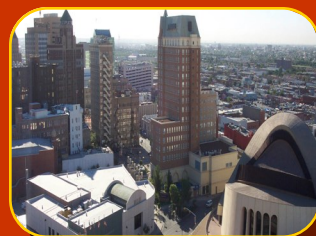


RUBEN R. RAMIREZ — EL PASO TIMES

El Paso Fire Department firefighters clear the scene of a Haz-Mat incident Monday morning in the 6000 block of Gateway Boulevard East. Nine units involving 23 firefighters were called out to the scene on a suspicious substance call, the substance turned out to be "cooking flour."



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Department In The News

FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE

KIP HALL MEMORIAL



Firefighter Javi Becerra dons his competition helmet Saturday.



PHOTOS BY VICTOR CALZADA — EL PASO TIMES

Anthony Sanchez pounds a weight with a hammer Saturday during the Kip Hall Memorial Firefighter Combat Challenge. Local high school teams and area firefighters competed in both team and individual competition. The competition features five back-to-back events, which are timed. See more photos. PHOTOS.ELPASOTIMES.COM

COMMUNITY

MILE IN HER SHOES

High-heeled walk raises awareness, funds in effort to prevent violence against women

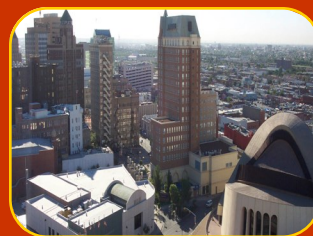


VICTOR CALZADA — EL PASO TIMES

High-heeled El Paso firefighters Jon Killings, left, and Josh Lefebvre help Brian Haggerty negotiate the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes course Tuesday in Downtown El Paso. Sandra Braham, CEO of the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region, said the event offers men the opportunity to participate in a light-hearted way in the effort to prevent violence against women. Last year, the event raised \$18,000, she said. Funds raised help support the Independence House transitional living center and the STARS (Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services) program. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



El Paso Fire Department



2013 Fire Department In The News

Challenge

FROM PAGE 1

45 pounds of rolled hose and sprint down the five-story tower to drive a 150-pound beam five feet with a nine-pound shot mallet.

The competitor then sprints 140 feet to pick up a fully charged 225-pound hose, which is carried for 75 feet. The final obstacle, which is perhaps the hardest, is carrying a 175-pound life-sized dummy that must be dragged backward for 100 feet.

The El Paso Firefighter Combat Challenge relay team gets through the course in about 1 minute and 40 seconds.

"It's one of the greatest feelings when you're out there competing against firefighters from all over the world because you admire the people you are competing against," Ortiz said. "It's a camaraderie that we all share. It's like a brotherhood when we come together."

There are several divisions of competition, including

"It's one of the greatest feelings when you're out there competing against firefighters from all over the world because you admire the people you are competing against."

— El Paso Fire Department Battalion Chief Ortiz Ortiz on the Firefighter Combat Challenge

ing team, relay, tandem and divisions for 40 years and older and 50 years and older. Last year, Ortiz finished in third place in the chief category.

This year, the El Paso team consists of Ortiz, Capt. Dave Valero, Elnora Garcia, Javier Becerra and Keano Ramos.

The Challenge seeks to encourage firefighter fitness and to demonstrate the pro-

fession's rigors to the public.

"It was created as a physical fitness test for incumbents that wanted to become firefighters to see if they were fit enough," said Valero, who put together the local team in 1994. "They recognized the competitive nature of firefighters and it became the competitive combat challenge that has been seen on ESPN since in the early '90s."

ESPN has called the Combat Challenge the "toughest 20 minutes in sports." This past Saturday, the firefighters had their last run-through during the seventh El Paso Firefighter Combat Challenge, named in honor of EIP Hall, who worked for the El Paso Fire Department and Combat Challenge team for more than 10 years before dying of complications from treatment for cancer.

"Kipp called it the meat and potatoes of firefighting," Valero said. "I like that description better. This is a competition with a purpose, it is fire ground simulations. It had a federal resource grant that went into



Dave Valero uses a hammer to hit a weight on a sled during a demonstration of firefighting skills. Valero is part of El Paso's Firefighter Combat Challenge team competing in Las Vegas.

this, the only sporting event in ESPN history that's ever had a federal resource grant. It's about firefighters. First it's the camaraderie and then the competition. We are there to help each other out and encourage each other."

Ortiz and Valero have special memories of Hall, their fallen colleague.

"It's an honor to represent Kipp and being out here doing what he really had a passion for," said Ortiz, who has been with EFPD for 12 years.

"This is what he loved to do. We will always remember him."

Victor R. Martinez writes about sports and entertainment. He can be reached at 315-546-6228.

FITNESS

'You'll never do anything harder'



EP firefighters prepare for 2013 World Challenge in Las Vegas

By Victor R. Martinez
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El Paso Fire Department Battalion Chief Elnora Garcia has trained and participated in many athletic events.

But nothing has been as demanding as what he is about to go through this weekend — the 2013 Scott World Challenge in Las Vegas.

"I've done a lot of sports before. I've been drilled by many coaches. I've been in the military and there is nothing that comes close to this," Ortiz said Saturday before a training run at the El Paso Firefighter Combat Challenge in El Paso. "Why? Because it's a sprint as fast as you can, while carrying a weight. It's an all-out, anaerobic workout. Years ago, some NFL players tried to do it and they had the same feeling afterwards. Trust me, you'll never do anything harder."

The annual challenge in Las Vegas is the pinnacle of the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge series of competitions and attracts hundreds of firefighters from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Argentina, Chile and South Africa.

The course requires firefighters to wear 55 pounds of full protective gear and an additional 45 pounds of kitted loss up the flight of stairs. Then they must hook up another

CHALLENGE PAGE 2

FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE

What: 2013 Scott World Challenge in Las Vegas.

Who: El Paso Firefighter Combat Challenge team consists of Chief Elnora Ortiz, Capt. Dave Valero, Elnora Garcia, Javier Becerra and Keano Ramos.

When: Today through Sunday. Information: firefightchallenges.com.

El Paso Battalion Chief Ortiz holds a heavy piece of rolled hose during a demonstration of the Firefighter Combat Challenge Saturday.

Javier Becerra sprints with a fire hose during the El Paso Firefighter Combat Challenge relay team on Saturday.



Elnora Garcia carries a 175-pound life-sized dummy during a demonstration of the Scott World Challenge relay team in Las Vegas.



A Prayer For Fallen Firefighters

*You were a Firefighter so Brave and Strong,
You didn't know something would go wrong.*

*But it happened on that day,
It happened and it took your life away.*

*We Prayed for you and the ones you love,
But God needed you and took you above.*

*You were a Firefighter so Brave and Strong,
Who knows, it may not be long.*

*I too will lose my life to fate,
But I know you will meet me at the pearly gate.*

*We are Firefighters and I say that with Pride
We stand together side by side.*

*Please watch over me from up above,
So I won't leave the ones I Love.*

*You were a Firefighter so Brave and Tall,
Always willing to risk it all.*

*We are Firefighters and I say that with Pride,
And I know that you will be my guide.*

*So help me through the smokey maze,
and help me fight the dancing blaze.*

*Please help me keep it from spreading wild,
and help me hear the frightened child.*

*We are Firefighters and I say that with Pride,
We stand together side by side.*

